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CONTENTS FOR 17 JULY 1937

	Page
AIR VIEW OF LEEDS	<i>Frontispiece</i>
JOURNAL	859
BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE, LEEDS, INAUGURAL MEETING	861
THE CONFERENCE	875
CONFERENCE BANQUET	876
THE LEEDS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE	882
VISITS AND TOURS	884
BOOK REVIEWS :	
BRITAIN AND THE BEAST. Sir Fabian Ware	890
DESIGNER-MAKER-USER. John Gloag	891
DESIGN IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. Theodore Fyfe	892
WHY EMPLOY AN ARCHITECT ?	892
CORROSION OF IRON AND STEEL. J. K. W... .. .	893
NOISE WITHOUT TEARS. E. H. B.	894
BUILDING PROCEDURE. Arthur W. Kenyon	894
MOTOR CAR SIZES	894
WALES	895
TOWN AND VILLAGE IN ENGLAND	895
CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES	895
CARDIFF	895
REVIEW OF PERIODICALS	896
ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.—IX	898
REINFORCED CONCRETE HOUSES	901
LIVERPOOL SCHOOL ANNUAL EXHIBITION	909
PARIS, 1937	910
CORRESPONDENCE :	
BUILDING AND REARMAMENT. Colin Penn	912
NOTES	912
OBITUARY :	
SYDNEY KITSON [E.]. H. M. Fletcher, Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, W. A. Ledgard	913
ALLIED SOCIETIES	915
MEMBERSHIP LISTS	915
NOTICES	917
COMPETITIONS	918
MEMBERS' COLUMN	919
ARCHITECTS' AND SURVEYORS' APPROVED SOCIETY	920
ARCHITECTS' PENEVOLENT SOCIETY	920



AIR VIEW OF LEEDS

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JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE *of* BRITISH ARCHITECTS

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Journal

LEEDS

The Leeds Conference was a great success, as the various reports in this number of the JOURNAL show. The large number of members and their guests who came to it were provided with a remarkably interesting programme sufficiently varied to satisfy every taste, and the organisation of the visits and tours, of the receptions and the banquet was flawless. Only those, perhaps, who have actually had the duty of organising a conference can fully appreciate the labour involved. In any one tour for instance there may be arrangements to be settled with a dozen or more hosts each one of whom may first have to be persuaded to open his house or works, to dislocate his own arrangements to receive and entertain parties of a size which cannot be known for certain until the last moment; the local architects have to be recruited as guides, each one of whom must have the patience of a saint, the tact of a diplomat and determination of a Napoleon. Each year as more experience is gained the task may in some respects become simpler, but just because there have been so many conferences in the past each new host society is put embarrassingly on its mettle to keep the conferences from getting into a rut and is aware that among their guests will be a number of experienced conference-goers prepared to compare what Leeds has to offer with what a dozen other towns have had to offer in the past. Leeds, her Lord Mayor and the Vice Chancellor of her University, and Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Norval Paxton and all the other officers and members of the West Yorks Society deserve and get our wholehearted congratulations and thanks.

Owing to the relentless pressure on space in the JOURNAL we have been forced to exclude the full lists of those present at the conference and the banquet, but all conference members will, of course, have had the lists, which can be seen at the R.I.B.A. by any others who are interested.

SYDNEY KITSON

By Sydney Kitson's death the Institute has lost one of the most loyal and charming friends that it has ever had within its membership. If ever it may be allowed to break through the proper impersonality of our editorial column it may surely be here and now, for Sydney Kitson himself had a talent for breaking through the impersonality of institutions. It is said of a certain type of person who talks large of goodwill and service that he loves mankind collectively and hates men

individually. Kitson's real affection for the R.I.B.A., shown by so many years of service which ended only when his failing health compelled him to retire from active part in affairs, did not stop short at the Institute but penetrated beyond to a genial friendship with all those with whom he had dealings. Though this editorial response is indeed collective it may also voice the personal feelings of the hundreds of members and servants of the Institute who knew him well or experienced even by casual contacts the enlarging benefits of his keen witted concern in all those affairs where their interests met. Kitson was first rate "company," his conversation, spiced with a lively and at times satirical humour, showed him a critic as well as an appreciator of his fellows. He was not one to suffer fools gladly, though through his kindness he seldom allowed the fools to know it.

There is a certain poignancy in the fact that his death came so soon after the Leeds Conference; the one conference of all others at which he should and but for his illness most certainly would have been present. Of his work in Leeds, his "home town" and the city of his practice, it is not necessary to speak here; Mr. Ledgard, his partner, contributes a memoir which appears on another page with one from Mr. H. M. Fletcher and another from Professor Hamilton Thompson. Those present who knew of his affection for Leeds and its people and who knew then how near his death he was, understood the full meaning of the kindly spontaneous proposal that a telegram "of good wishes and affection" should be sent to him from the conference banquet.

It was not until increasing ill-health drove him from Leeds to London and then from London to near Oxford that his great period of Institute service as Honorary Secretary could start. At the same time, since he hated indolence of mind and body, he began to form his superb collection of Cotman drawings and his documentation of the whole of Cotman's career. In this short period he made himself the first Cotman expert in the country. There was no happier moment in all this part of his life, perhaps, than when he first saw his *Life of Cotman* printed, bound and in his hand. For many months he had struggled to keep himself going to realise this ambition. Those who knew him well knew how great was the effort and how inevitably the end would come when that had been achieved.

Such loyal service as he was able to give is luckily not rare in an Institute that seems endlessly capable

of enlisting the enthusiasms of men of sterling qualities, but Kitson's service was notable throughout for the qualities of his personality. His scholarship, his humour and his boundless friendliness enriched the R.I.B.A. in an enduring way.

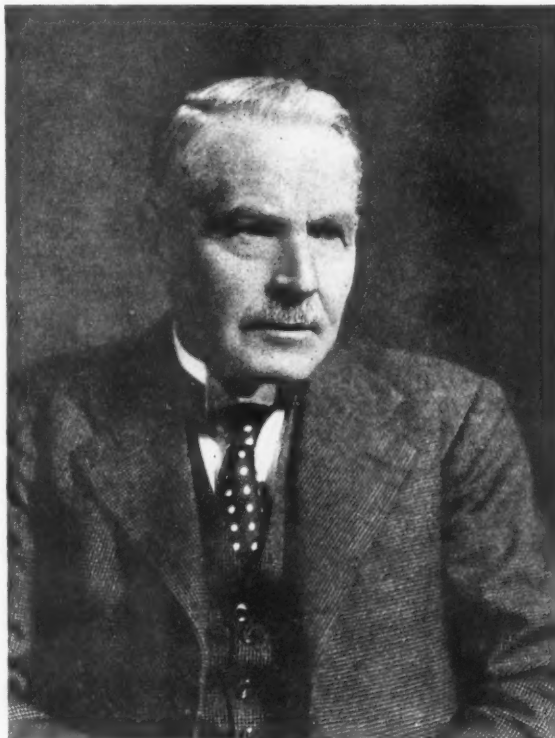
THE ROME SCHOLARSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE, 1937

The Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome have awarded the Rome Scholarship in Architecture for 1937 to Mr. William T. C. Walker [Student], of the School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art. The Faculty have also commended the design submitted in the competition by Mr. Hubert Bennett [A.], of the School of Architecture, University of Manchester.

Mr. Walker, who is 24 years of age, was educated at the Broughton Secondary School, Edinburgh. In 1930 he entered the morning school of the School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art, and in 1935 he entered the day school. In 1936 he won the Lorimer Memorial Prize offered by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. This year, in addition to winning the Rowand Anderson Prize of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, he was awarded a Town Planning Bursary of £120 offered by the Edinburgh College of Art.

Mr. Bennett is 27 years of age and was born in Manchester, receiving his education at the Manchester College of Technology and the University School of Architecture. In 1933 he won the Arthur Cates Prize, in 1934 the Soane Medallion, and in 1936 the Neale Bursary of the R.I.B.A. In 1936 Mr. Bennett was awarded a Certificate of Hon. Mention and a premium of £100 in the competition for the Rome Scholarship in Architecture. He gained admission to the competition through the open class, and is at present staff lecturer and instructor at the Polytechnic School of Architecture, Regent Street, London.

The Rome Scholarship in Architecture is now provided for by an annual grant made to the British School at Rome by the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects and is ordinarily tenable for two years.



The late Sydney Kitson

AN APPOINTMENT VACANT UNDER PROFESSOR THORNTON WHITE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE-TOWN

Professor Thornton White, head of the School of Architecture in the University of Capetown, has notified the Institute that he wants to find a studio master and lecturer to take charge of one year of the course and be responsible for the personal instruction in the studio, writing of programmes, examination papers, etc. He will be responsible for not less than two lecture courses or parts of lecture courses, the actual subjects being arranged to suit his qualifications. He will be expected to practise or research on his own in such a way that his school work is not hindered. He must be an F. or A.R.I.B.A., and have been trained in a recognised school, and should have had about four years' practical experience, teaching ex-

perience may be an advantage but is not an essential. The school year in South Africa consists of two terms of sixteen weeks each, with one week half-term vacations. The salary is £400, and the general employment conditions those of a university lecturer.

Full particulars of the post and the terms of employment can be obtained from the Secretary to the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2. Applications for the post must reach South Africa House not later than 31 August 1937.

Attention is also drawn to the notice of a post vacant in the office of the Public Works Department of the Sudan Government printed on page 912.

THE A.A. SECRETARYSHIP

Mr. H. J. W. Alexander, who has been connected with the Architectural Association for the last 24 years, has recently been appointed its secretary.

Mr. F. R. Yerbury will continue to be associated with the A.A. in the capacity of consultant.



BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE LEEDS

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

The Inaugural Meeting of the Conference was held in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre at the University. On the platform were the President, Mr. Percy Thomas; the President of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, Mr. G. W. Atkinson; the Chairman-elect of the R.I.B.A. Allied Societies' Conference, Mr. James R. Adamson; the Hon. Secretary of the R.I.B.A., Mr. H. M. Fletcher; the Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Mr. Tom Coombs, J.P.; the Vice Chancellor of the University, Sir James Baillie; and the readers of the two papers, Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel and Professor Patrick Abercrombie.

The LORD MAYOR (Mr. Tom Coombs, J.P.), in welcoming the Conference to Leeds, said: It falls to my lot, and it is a very happy lot to my mind, to have the privilege of coming here for a few moments this morning in order to offer to you, Mr. President, and to the members of your great institute a warm Yorkshire welcome to this industrial city of Leeds. On behalf of the aldermen, councillors and citizens, I extend to you a very warm and a very sincere welcome. I hope the weather will look upon you with kindness, that you will have a very happy time while you are here, and that the result of your deliberations will be to

enhance the value that in your respective spheres you will be able to render to your clientele. I understand that you are going to have a very busy time this morning. A very delightful gentleman, Professor Patrick Abercrombie, is going to speak to you on the subject of the development of a great industrial city and its area. It would be foolish of me to attempt to imagine what the learned professor is going to say to you, but I venture to say that Leeds offers to you to-day one of the finest examples of how such a city during the last 100 years has tackled industrial problems of very great magnitude. Leeds is essentially a city of the Victorian era. In 1837 Leeds had something like 70,000 or 80,000 inhabitants. To-day it has seven times as many, while its rateable value has increased out of all proportion to the number of those inhabitants. It has a greater diversity of trades than any other city in the kingdom, and consequently a greater variety of workshops and buildings. For the development of its manufactures workpeople were required and houses were built for them as near as possible to the factory or place where they worked. In the short space of three generations we have had to face a complete revolution, and the manner in which Leeds has tackled that revolution is worthy,

I suggest, of very close consideration. When you have assimilated what we have done in this city, I am convinced you will come away very appreciative of our efforts. I am going to have the pleasure and privilege to-night of welcoming you to Leeds Town Hall and I hope to see you all again. I hope you will have a very happy meeting and that your visit to Leeds will long remain a very happy memory in the minds of all of you who have taken part in this great Conference.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR OF LEEDS UNIVERSITY (Sir James Baillie) then welcomed the delegates to the University. He said: I should like in a few words, on behalf of the university, to offer a welcome to this distinguished gathering on visiting Yorkshire. You have come to a county which contains a representation of the highest standard of architecture and also of the very worst you could find anywhere. I hope the former will be to you an inspiration and the latter a warning. We are very glad to offer you in the university facilities in the way of accommodation in order to help to make your gathering a success. You are meeting in one of the University rooms which was designed by Mr. Lanchester. You may have an opportunity of going round some of our buildings and they may be of interest to you, especially to the young architects. Naturally the older architects have nothing to learn. The younger men may have. As a university we naturally realise what a very important body of men you are and what a very important profession you represent. After all, on your labours, your intellect, and occasionally your genius, we recognise that the very well-being, physical and moral, and the happiness of mankind very largely depend. I do not know any other profession which is capable

of transforming this strange planet on which we spend our lives into a habitable place for man to dwell in. It is left to architects more than any other profession to make such habitation possible. As the Lord Mayor has pointed out there are great problems in these days and I am sure you realise the responsibilities of your great profession. We trust that you will be able at the conclusion of your Conference to regard your visit to Leeds as one of your most successful gatherings. On behalf of the university let me welcome you to the county and to the city, and wish you all prosperity.

The PRESIDENT: I am going to ask you to reverse the usual order. The thanks usually come at the end of these proceedings, but I want to express your thanks and my thanks to the Lord Mayor and Vice-Chancellor now, so that they may depart before we settle down to our business. I know they are both busy men and would like to get away as soon as possible. My Lord Mayor, we are deeply grateful to you for sparing us some of your time this morning to give us such a charming welcome; we know the arduous duties the Lord Mayor of a city like Leeds has every day of his life and we are grateful to you for coming here this morning. We look forward to renewing acquaintance this evening. Mr. Vice-Chancellor, we are grateful to you also for your welcome and for the use of this admirable lecture room and other facilities. One of the things I never dreamt of was to correct a vice-chancellor. There was just one little slip made which must be pointed out, and that is that it is the young architects to-day who have nothing to learn. I am sure that you, ladies and gentlemen, will join with me in thanking the Lord Mayor and Vice-Chancellor for their very kind welcome.

The Lord Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor then retired before the President proceeded with the Inaugural Address

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS

By the President, Mr. Percy E. Thomas, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.

*THE PRESIDENT, having thanked the Lord Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor for their welcoming addresses and for their hospitality, continued as follows:—*We are indebted to the authorities of the Leeds Art Gallery for their kind hospitality last night, to the owners of buildings who have so readily consented to receive our visits and to the school of architecture for helping in the work of organisation.

I have also the pleasant duty of expressing our thanks to the President and Council and members of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, first, for inviting us to hold our Conference here and, secondly, for the admirable and complete arrangements which they have made for our comfort, our pleasure and our interest. There is an enormous amount of hard work to be done in arranging such a programme as you have in your hands and in ensuring that it is all carried through punctually and successfully. "Yorkshire" spells efficiency and I know that Mr. Paxton and his fellow-workers have done everything that foresight and self-sacrifice can do to ensure that the Leeds Conference of 1937 shall be one of the outstanding successes of the series.

We are to hear this morning lectures by two men of great distinction in their special fields. Professor Patrick Abercrombie is to speak to us on "The Development of a Great Industrial City and Its Area". What he has to say will, I am sure, be an inspiration and a stimulus to the people of Leeds and to the other great industrial cities of the North and Midlands. Mr. Goodhart-Rendel, who in a week's time will take over from me the responsibility of the Presidency, will speak on "The Architect To-day," and I know that we are going to enjoy a rare intellectual treat.

But before I give place to them I want to say a word—in this Inaugural Address—on the general subject of the part which our profession has to play in the service of the community. In these days we are all talking of Planning—Planning in almost every form: Town and Country Planning, Regional Planning, Industrial Planning—and I want to call your attention to the fact, not realised by so many, that in all these forms of essential planning the archi-

tect has to play a part which cannot be ignored or omitted without more or less disastrous results.

The business of the architect is not simply to plan and supervise the erection of buildings. That is, in itself, a big enough task, but his skill and knowledge are essential factors in a far wider field. He deals—or should deal—with the relations of buildings to one another, the planning of the streets and the layout of the town, the proper disposition of its various elements—residential, industrial, civic, recreational and so on. We have recently had a remarkable example of the public recognition of the architect's part in a great industrial and social development. One of the methods which have been adopted by the Government for dealing with the terrible problem of the "Special Areas" has been the creation of what are called "Trading Estates" in these areas. It is a modest name for a big thing. It proposes to create in a depressed area a complete new industrial unit, with its factories, its transport, its homes, its schools, churches and places of recreation.

One of the first, if not the very first, of these enterprises is the Team Valley Trading Estate and in this case the authorities set an example which will, I hope, be followed all over the country. They decided that from the first they must have an architect and town planner of outstanding ability and energy and I am glad to say that they enlisted the help of the R.I.B.A. in securing the services of Professor Holford, Professor of Civic Design in the University of Liverpool, who is now busy in his great and hopeful task. Under his direction we shall see the development of the ideal industrial unit of the twentieth century.

Our Conference is, perhaps, a suitable opportunity for pointing out to the general public and to the Press, as well as to the authorities who serve the public, that the architectural profession is now organised and equipped as never before for giving to the community the skilled service which it needs. No one with his eyes open can go through any of our cities and the areas surrounding them without realising how badly such services are needed.

We have in the Royal Institute of British Archi-

fects, with its allied societies in every part of the country, a vigorous organisation which is ready and anxious to play its part in creating those better, healthier and more beautiful conditions which we hope will be the mark of the twentieth century as compared with the disorder and ugliness that were the mark of the nineteenth.

Our architects are trained and tested as they have never been before by a system of education in architecture and town planning which is turning out every year fresh contingents of young and eager professional men and women who want only to be given the opportunity to show what they can do.

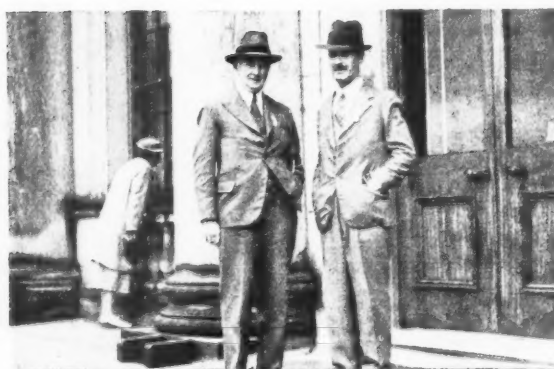
The machinery of the R.I.B.A. and its allied societies has been overhauled and tightened up in order to make it more effective for its purpose of service to the profession and the public. We are doing our utmost to bring home to the public what we can do for them if they will give us the chance.

We have organised and we are sending all over the country a series of exhibitions (open freely to the public) which illustrate the architectural solution of one problem after another—the better planning of schools, the possibilities of planning for

air transport, the planning of civic centres and municipal buildings and even the improved design of the little “everyday things” that we all use, from tea-cups to carpets. The attendances at these exhibitions have already reached several hundred thousand.

We are developing our service of illustrated lectures for all sections of the community from the children in the schools to the mature citizens in their clubs and societies. We are helping the work of rational preservation of beauty wherever it exists. The Council for the Preservation of Rural England only a few weeks ago gave expression to its gratitude for the help which it had received from the R.I.B.A. from the day of its foundation.

But I want to emphasise the fact that “preservation” in the narrow sense of the word is only a small part of our task. “Creation” is our main duty and if the two ideas are correctly interpreted there is no conflict between them. We have to create new efficiency, new order and new beauty, and in doing it we have to see that we do no needless injury to the best that our forefathers have bequeathed to us.



The President with the Secretary of the Board of Architectural Education at Leeds. (A photograph taken by Mr. Norval Paxton)

THE ARCHITECT TO-DAY

By H. S. GOODHART-RENDEL

(President-Elect)

There has lately been—as who does not know?—some dispute about the meaning of the term *architect*. It is a term convenient to describe any maker of an architectural design, indeed in this sense its use is inescapable. The man who produces paintings we call painter, who produces sculpture sculptor, and by analogy (for the application is not many centuries old) we have come to call the man who produces architectural designs architect. We call him the architect of so-and-so, of a building perhaps, or of an imaginary design, or, metaphorically, of a social structure or of his own fortunes.

I ask you to observe the definite article *the*, because when we use not the definite but the indefinite article—when we speak of *an* architect—our meaning changes. An architect in the world to-day is a man who takes fees or a salary for getting buildings put up. He is a professional man engaged to direct to an agreed end the expenditure of his employer's money and the operations of those to whom that money is paid. He may be many other things as well; the purpose of this paper is to examine several of them and discuss their desirability. But this first thing he must be, this skilful, highly trained agent of the building owner, this man fully qualified to deserve the confidence that inevitably will be put in him.

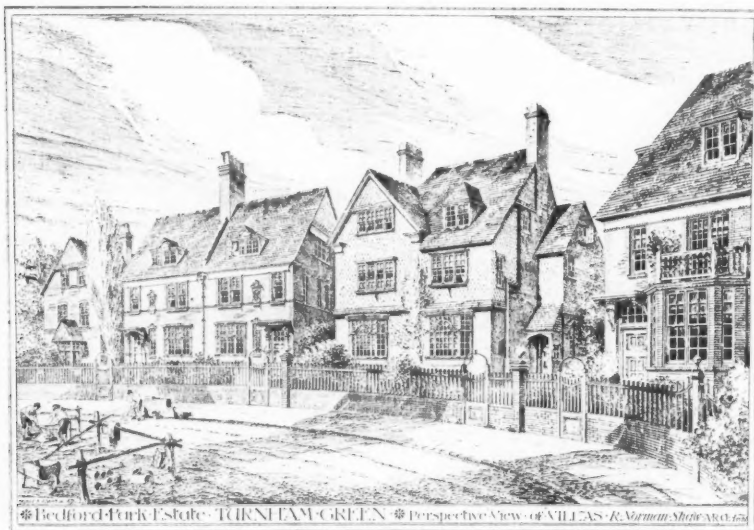
The chief of the other things he ought to be is a competent judge of the art of architecture. He is the man who gets architecture done and that architecture ought to be good. Sometimes he is, and always has been, the man who does not pretend to have made his designs himself, sometimes the man who does pretend to have made them, sometimes the man who actually has made them. It is obviously no matter of public concern who has made a design so long as it is good, and in order to ensure that it is good the architect must at least be a competent judge.

Forty-six years ago, when the Royal Institute of British Architects was split from top to bottom by the famous controversy "Architecture a Profession or an Art," there flourished the Victorian notion that a profession, even at its best, must be slightly inartistic, and that art, even at its best, must be slightly unprofessional. In those happy days artists behaved and dressed as a class apart, and professional men slept in their top hats. Norman Shaw, himself a practical man as well as a great artist, wrote an essay with the title *That an Artist is not Necessarily Unpractical*, and everybody agreed that he was not necessarily so with the

inward reservation that more often than not he would be.

Now the practical ability an architect should have is of two kinds, ability to conduct building operations without wasting time, labour or materials and ability to prescribe the kind of building that will best meet particular needs, circumstances and methods of construction. Practical ability in the conduct of building operations is what the public is most conscious of needing from him, since the power of recognising what is appropriate in building—or even what is useful—is not yet widespread. The streets of our cities and the suburban roads surrounding them prove that you used to be able to build almost anything for the business man to work or live in without his realising how much better he might have been served. Architecture nowadays is being emancipated from many traditional inconveniences, but is in danger of forming a new tradition of inconveniences scarcely less deplorable than the old. The public that for so long wasted its footsteps in the great open spaces of unscientific planning is now often congested in quarters where every human movement must be worked out beforehand to avoid bruises. The public that for so long worked and lived in the dark is now often exposed to the glare of the glasshouse. The public that for so long had its money wasted upon needlessly costly ornament is now often made to pay for needlessly costly engineering—for surprising cantilevers where stanchions would bring no disadvantage, for girders of dramatically long spans where those of shorter would do, for mushroom stanchions used so as to cause not less but more expense and obstruction than would be caused by normal stanchions normally placed.

The power of recognising what is appropriate and useful comes with that quality so many people claim and so few possess, the quality of common sense. Common sense, let me remind you, is common not as a cold in the head is a common cold or a vulgarian a common man, but is what bad writers prefer to call communal, the generalised sagacity of the human community. Few individual people have it because in most people sagacity is all messed up by fads and prejudices, but mankind in general has it because fads and prejudices cancel out. Individual people can have it if they train themselves to use their reason in small things and in great and if they strive to remain always conscious of the legitimate needs and desires of their fellows.



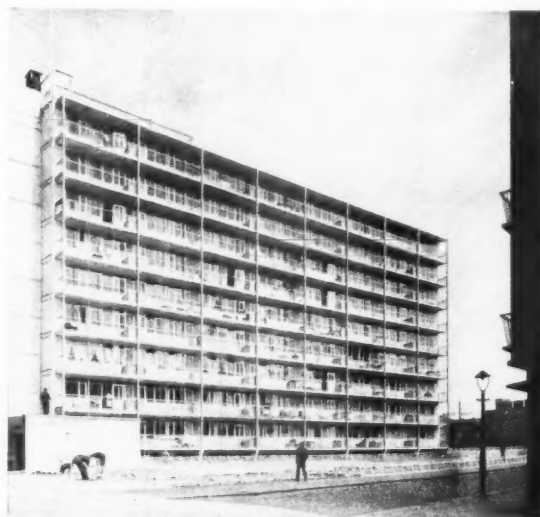
Bedford Park Estate, TURNHAM GREEN. Perspective View. © VILLAGES - R. Norman Shaw and Co. Ltd.

In the 'nineties of the last century, when Norman Shaw wrote the essay I have already referred to, the artist-architects were mostly busy making picturesque compositions of leaded casements and commercial magnates, of Jacobean fireplaces and ladies in bustles, of free Gothic churches and ritualistic curates on bicycles. The magnates, the ladies, and no doubt the curates, were content enough with their part in the whole, since going as the new architects pleased was considerably more comfortable than had been going as nobody really pleased in the days of earlier Victorian conventionality. Moreover, being "artistic," provided it fell short of being "aesthetic," had become quite the thing; it was disagreeable to be called "philistine."

In those days, therefore, architects did show themselves conscious of the legitimate needs and desires of their fellows because it is perfectly legitimate to want to be both comfortable and in the fashion. In so far as they led the way to comfort they were influential for good, they were inculcators of common sense. In so far as they led a fashion they were influential perhaps, but in a much less degree, because it takes two to make a fashion, the leader and the follower, and it is often difficult to determine who is which. My own view is that the public was hungering for Dutch gables and white balconies before the Norman Shavians arrived to provide them, just as I believe that more recently a particular public was hungering to expose its private life in glass-walled houses like showcases before it occurred to architects to build in a way to satisfy this desire. The question here of priority between supply and demand is a psychological one that in a paper necessarily short I cannot even begin to investigate.

"In the nineties of the last century . . . the artist-architects were mostly busy making picturesque compositions of leaded casements . . . the public was hungering for Dutch gables and white balconies before the Norman Shavians arrived to provide them, just as I believe that more recently a particular public was hungering to expose its private life in glass-walled houses like showcases . . ."

On left: Bedford Park Houses, by Norman Shaw. On right: Flats in Rotterdam, by van Tijen, Brinkman and van der Vlugt.



I cannot, however, pass over a question nearly allied to it, a question that must touch the conscience of every provider of necessary things. How far should such a provider seek to create a public appetite for work in which his own personality is strongly exploited, for work that only he can supply? How far should he set up as the man whose buildings, to adopt the odious slang of advertisements, are "different"? In painting and sculpture I do not see how he can avoid doing this, but painting and sculpture have ceased with the coming

of printing and photography to be necessary things, and the grand artistic commerce of mediæval days has degenerated into a lot of little one-man booths at a fair trying to attract a public chiefly intent upon swings and roundabouts. Painters and sculptors, except in the matter of portraiture, cannot count upon being employed at all; in order to live they must attract attention, and must each try to provide something that the others cannot, something unmistakable that critics can recognise and dealers profiteer in. Architects are placed otherwise. As long as mankind needs artificial shelter they are bound to secure some employment, even if not so much as they feel that they are entitled to. When they are artists they are bound to express their personalities and the world will be the richer for it, but I do not think their personalities should ever be exploited, that they should ever say, as an eminent architect of the last generation was once heard to say in his office, "Give me that drawing and I'll just make it *me*." Buildings are not very appropriate vehicles for the display of this kind of egotism, the men who pay for them generally care a great deal more about their own "me's" than about the "me's" of their architects, and although an auctioneer occasionally advertises a "Norman Shaw house" or a "Voysey house" or a "Lutyens house" I do not imagine that the sale value of the property is greatly enhanced, except by the general presumption that such a house will be well designed of its kind and properly built.

I am afraid that the tenor of my remarks so far may have seemed unduly professional and inæsthetic, but I claim for it that it is realistic and I do not think we need ever be afraid of reality. I remember once when I ventured to suggest in a committee that a certain issue could be contested better on utilitarian than on æsthetic grounds an indignant elder jumped to his feet and demanded that as a body of artists we should not be frightened of standing for Beauty. I envied him for being so sure what beauty is, but felt impenitently that utilitarianism might be a better approach to it than any he was likely to recommend. Usefulness alone cannot make beauty, every thinking person knows that. But beauty often does arise from usefulness, and there are twenty people that will agree upon what is useful for every two that will agree upon what is beautiful.

"Standing for Beauty" is what we all should do in our own hearts, but can only result in a collective and practical stand at those rare times when a particular notion of beauty is generally agreed upon. The eighteenth-century Palladians stood for beauty in days when no culture was thought possible that did not spring from Rome. The Romantic Movement brought them to disorderly rout. The Arts-and-Crafts people stood for beauty in days when the average thinker was inwardly rather ashamed of machinery. A change of public mood revealed them as standing with their

backs turned to all the especial opportunities of their age. Post-war discontent led many to make a stand for a notion that beauty could consist solely in the performance of function without any really æsthetic element at all. Whilst the memory of much ornamental uselessness was still fresh this notion was widely accepted, but now that the irritating past is lapsing into harmless history we realise that no art can be made by negation.

I think Beauty with a big B is best left out of any question we do not want to become a vexed one. I think it is a thing to be watched for, to be prayed for, to be worked for, but not to be dogmatised about. I do not think that usefulness can be dogmatised about either; at the present moment everything that looks queer is said to be useful, but experience does not always justify the claim. If we do not dogmatise about usefulness, however, we can, nevertheless, pursue it wholeheartedly, and this pursuit seems to me particularly the business of the architect to-day. In leading research towards usefulness he can perform a social function that no one ought to be so well qualified to perform as he.

His particular qualification for this should arise from his training and from his habits of thought. Designing buildings should teach a man, as few other tasks can teach him, to put conflicting requirements in the order of their relative importance, to foresee and provide for development and change, to organise the work of many towards a common end. These are capabilities that should also characterise the civil engineer, and I often think that if architects and civil engineers could become either identical or very closely and harmoniously related they could govern the world. Unfortunately things are not yet nearly as good as they ought to be in either profession or in their mutual relation; the engineer is called in to construct a design that has already gone too far before he came on the scene, the architect is called in to clothe a design whose construction has been settled without his advice, and in consequence engineering tends to become more and more unimaginative architecturally and architecture more and more unimaginative constructionally. When the engineer tries to do the architecture as well as the engineering and the architect tries to do the engineering as well as the architecture, the results, in this country at least, are almost always execrable. I need not say that I include in the meaning of the term architecture the science of planning, because engineers can scarcely be blamed for not realising that this branch of design, in which their co-operation is seldom sought, is a science at all. It must be said in fairness that a great many architects fail to realise this also.

The best remedy for neighbours that poach each other's preserves is for them to form a shooting syndicate together. These would be low grounds for recommending a collaboration that might be of the greatest benefit to the public, and I do not suggest for

a moment that cases of undesirable poaching are common enough to call for any general remedy. What I do suggest is, whereas in our architectural works the engineer, and in our engineering works the architect, is now usually called in when a design is half made he ought to be called in at the very beginning. At present it would not often be practicable in England that authority should be divided equally between them: their functions have been too long specialised, their visions limited too narrowly. It ought to become practicable, however, as the standpoints of the two professions approach each other, and in the symptoms now observable of this approach I see the brightest hope to be found anywhere for the improvement of both.

When the average architect shall have learnt that the structural skeleton of his building should be the framework around which his earliest conception of its design should be shaped, when the average engineer shall have learnt that a structural skeleton can be a thing capable of infinite varieties the choice among which is a problem of great intellectual delicacy, the two together will have acquired a mental technique, a real power of creation, far in advance of that possessed by most of the people who control our legislation and strive for our social improvement. Nevertheless, I hold strongly that architects and engineers should stick to architecture and engineering, and refrain from plunging into activities that are purely sociological. Some sociological study is a necessary means to the end of any well-balanced architectural education, and when that education is directed towards a specialised study of town-planning and housing the part that sociological study plays in it will be large. Nevertheless, although in a large sense the proper study of mankind is man, in a specialised sense the proper study of the architect is the architecture he is to make for man's use. When he is very young he may think that he can change man by the architecture he gives him, but he will soon find that except under a dictatorship nobody will consent to pay for something that may change him perhaps in a way he does not greatly fancy. If he should wish to be changed he is more likely to put himself in the hands of a prophet—or even of a surgeon—than of an architect.

I hope that in Leeds the name is not forgotten of that patron and amateur practitioner of architecture Sir Edmund Beckett, the first Lord Grimthorpe. It is not forgotten at St. Albans, would that it could be! In Leeds, however, a city with which he had many connections, the memory of his practical misdoings might reasonably be outweighed by the memory of the two books he wrote about our art, books into which, for all his bad temper and self-assertiveness, he put much that was valuable and true. A sentence from one of them it will be convenient here to quote: "People," he says, "may talk and write fine language about the philosophy of art and theories of architecture, and may



The structural skeleton . . . should be the framework around which his earliest conception of design should be shaped

call it the expression of a people's wants and many other things which sound well and mean anything or nothing: but the long and short of the matter is (as I said just now)—[he had several times]—that architecture or architects want only two things, expressible in two short words, taste and knowledge." Knowledge he goes on to define as "practical and scientific knowledge of building and all that belongs to it," and taste he also defines, but in a much less satisfactory way. It is a word even more dangerous to handle than beauty and his test of it—"that things in good taste are admired in the long run permanently"—does not elucidate its essence. Yet I think that *taste* is no worse a word than any other to describe what I have already claimed as an attribute of common sense—the power of recognising what is appropriate.

Appropriate practically, and appropriate emotionally—for please never forget that body and mind

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cannot be separated and that what disturbs the mind often does a nervous disservice to the body. Every doctor will tell you that a dyspeptic digests his worst when he is bored and it is useless to humanity to supply it with perfectly useful things it hates the sight of, because humanity will not use those things but will break them and throw them away. Now, the pleasure to be got from the sight and the use of a thing that is completely appropriate, that neither contains nor suggests any element irrelevant to its destination, may be a pleasure undreamt of by the public that admires Tudor filling stations, and I think that even among professed art lovers it is not widely felt. It is keenly relished in France, but only partially understood in Germany, America and—I am afraid I must add—England. Yet the contrary pain caused by obvious inappropriateness when it does happen to be experienced causes warm resentment. People are content enough that a barracks itself should look like nothing in particular, but they do not at all approve a block of flats "looking like a barracks."

The science of planning, upon which time forbids that I should dilate, is obviously included in what Beckett meant by *knowledge*: he thought that he possessed it himself and in the book I have quoted gave two plans that prove he did not. What Beckett meant by *taste* was no doubt in the main what everybody is apt to mean by *taste*, his own irrational likes and dislikes, but through all his crotchety writings there is a strong bias in favour of the appropriate that gives them real value. The laughable, it is often said, is usually the incongruous, and I think the crank differs from the sensible man chiefly in his lack of the sense of humour that would show him when his theories were out of scale with particular occasions. There is something really very funny in cinemas made like churches, in sitting rooms made like operating theatres, in department stores made like ancient temples. If we call the avoidance of these absurdities "taste" we do no great violence to our language.

A great deal of building nowadays is still done without any architect, and an increasing amount is being done under architectural departments or staffs in which it is difficult to discover and isolate any master mind. Even among private practitioners there are being formed groups, the members of which not only pool their various specialised abilities but collaborate in the initial work of actual designing. The results of such collaboration seem to me rather like a statue I remember in my youth. This statue had been produced by a talented family, each female member of which posed until she felt too cold, when she put on her clothes and took a turn at the sculpture with someone else as model. It was not a bad statue, but it was not a very good one.

Whether we like it or not, however, we are bound to have a good deal of this kind of work in the future, and the occasions upon which I believe it will be harm-

less—perhaps even desirable—are those arising when stock requirements call for nothing better than an article from stock. Patent medicines have their uses—one does not get a prescription from a doctor when one needs only a disinfectant or a mouth wash or something for chapped hands. Some wants in building need no expert diagnosis, simple methods of supplying them are common property and can be used in mass production. It is no good telling a man who buys a stock pattern motor-car, ready-made clothes, and mass-produced furniture, and is perfectly content with all of them, that his house ought to be the expression of joint idiosyncracies of himself and his architect. He knows that a house specially cut to fit him will probably be more expensive than a standardised one, and he prefers to spend his money otherwise. It is doubtful whether the architectural profession, having never succeeded in getting bricks made to a uniform size and shape, could succeed in completely standardising the little buildings that now are designed over and over again with only small and ineffectual variations, but I do not think it would do any harm if they tried to do so. Such stock patterns ought obviously to be as little individual as possible, and for designing them a group of architects would actually be better than a single one. The danger of admitting any standardisation at all is, of course, that laziness or officialdom may carry it too far, that people may have to make their wants fit the available patterns rather than have patterns made to fit their wants.

I have considered the architect in relation with the engineer, and if time had allowed I should have liked to consider the architect in relation with the decorator. All I can say of that relationship now is that the average architect needs the decorator's assistance more often than he is inclined to admit and that the average decorator needs the architect's assistance all the time. As with the engineer so with the decorator, collaboration should begin at the earliest possible moment instead of being deferred until one of the collaborators has decided alone what both ought to have consulted about. Architect and decorator may be united in one man, just as architect and engineer may; indeed, it is ideal that they should be. Men with these double capacities, however, are rare at present, and not to be generally expected.

The architect I have been speaking to you about, the typical architect of to-day, knows, or should know, enough about engineering to see that his engineering is properly done and enough about decoration to see that his decorating is properly done. He is under no greater obligation than that. I will not recapitulate the social services he should perform, I have spoken of them as well as am able. I shall, however, repeat as the final words of this somewhat cursory lecture the axiom round which it has all revolved. The architect, above all else, must be a man with common sense.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREAT INDUSTRIAL CITY

PROFESSOR PATRICK ABERCROMBIE

Professor ABERCROMBIE [F.] : You observe the title of my paper is "The Development of a Great Industrial City," not the preparation of a town-planning scheme for a great industrial city. I want to make it quite clear that of the threefold stage through which every community must pass in connection with this planning—the preliminary survey, the development plan and the statutory scheme—I am this morning only going to talk about the development plan stage. My reason for doing that is partly because that is the title given to me, and also because I think that is really the special sphere of the architect's contribution to the subject of planning. I do not say for an instant that the architect cannot help and does not and should not help in the preliminary scientific survey, the collection of data, etc., upon which the scheme or plan is to be based. Nor do I say that the architect's brain is not useful for interpreting the legal formalities of a statutory scheme. In fact, I think that is essential. The bare bones of an Act of Parliament if they were only interpreted by lawyers would remain extremely bare; we have to put something of the flesh and blood on to those bones. But the middle stage, that of the development plan, is the point where the architect naturally comes on to the scene more completely. What we require at that stage are two things. First of all, imaginative vision in planning—the ability to foresee the future in some way or other. It is part of our job to collect our data, and then to prepare something which in the future will be carried into reality. The other principal quality that is so essential in this middle stage is that of design—a word, of course, which requires very careful definition. As the President reminded us, we are concerned not only with the placing of a community or town on the face of the earth, but we extend our powers of design from that very wide aspect to the smallest question of the shape or colour of a kerb on the road. Design enters into every stage or aspect of the subject of planning in a great industrial city.

Though I am especially refraining from saying anything about the legal aspect of town planning, I must confess that one of the objects of my speaking to you this morning is to point out how much there is that it is possible to do to-day in our towns without really waiting for the legal powers in the Town and Country Planning Act. There are many things that can be done in a very positive way, in addition to the control which is the general function of that Act. That Act, as we all know, is very largely negative. But at the present moment our towns have an opportunity of doing a great deal of positive planning. Sir Ernest Simon has said, with a great deal of truth, that the opportunities before us to-day are such as will never occur again.

I will give you no illustrations, and I am going to use only very sparing references to individual towns, because I think every one of the points I deal with will call to the minds of all of you present examples in your own several localities. The same problems are before us all, but of course the solution in every case must vary. Nor am I going to attempt to give you an academic lecture on the components of towns, such as zoning, transport, open spaces, etc. I am sure that everyone present here knows the theoretical basis of town planning generally—every architect, of course, must and does know the basis. Rather would I draw your attention to the points which seize you when you are called on to advise a city as to its future. We have to remember that an English city at any rate cannot be wholly scrapped, much as many of us would like to see that done: but not, of course, in the case of this beautiful town of Leeds.

There are two factors which Sir Ernest Simon had in his mind when he said that the opportunity of the present will not recur, and which inevitably force us into bold action; these are the slum clearance and prevention of over-crowding drive which is affecting every town, and the equally important factor in the increase of traffic. The first is freeing an enormous quantity of land that was before covered with dwellings either in the centre or in the immediate circumference of the centre of our towns, and we have to make up our minds what is to be done with those spaces. The increase in traffic has had two opposite effects. While adding to the power mobility, it is also tending almost to create immobility. I would like to point out to every town the enormous value of the freed spaces. What a valuable thing that is: it is the best thing that has happened to our towns in a generation. Don't let us be in any hurry to try to cover up that space, because it looks derelict.

To plunge *in medias res*, despite of logical arrangement, here are some of the uses to which that space can and should be put. First of all, central traffic improvements: we have heard and talked a great deal about ring roads round our towns and by-pass roads. The central by-passes are just as essential, if not more, as everyone in an industrial town will realise. There is next the need for parking space. I know of several towns where cleared areas have been temporarily used as parking places, and every one of them is occupied fully by cars, showing the absolute necessity of parking spaces scattered throughout the central area, so that people do not have to walk too far from their cars when they leave them. Next is the need for the bus station. It is only just being realised that a bus station is as important as a railway station.



There are long-distance buses and local buses; they may require the same station, but they present different problems in relation to your street planning.

There is then the railway terminals problem. Most people will agree that not only do we need the railways to be remodelled, but we should like to see the amalgamation of the railways carried forward into the amalgamation of stations. I know that is a need in many towns. Manchester, for example, has the most fantastic arrangement of stations: every railway used in Manchester uses every station, so that you never know which station a train is going from. Not only is this amalgamation required, but there is the special traffic requiring connection between railway terminals; some towns, including Sheffield, are very much worse off than Leeds in that respect. Now I come to another aspect of central improvements equally useful, namely, the creation or the completion of your civic and other centres. That aspect of town planning was very much

blown upon some years ago when we began to study the subject up because our friends across the water dashed in to these civic centres in a rather hurried way in the early days of the revival and produced some magnificent and grandiose effects which were mere lumps of huge buildings dumped down in the centre of a town. But the creation of a real civic centre is a thoroughly necessary thing. It saves an enormous amount of time in the various administrative offices of a town. There are also other centres to be planned with advantage—the cultural centre with your art galleries, and your amusement centre. I would like just to remind you of the enormous clearance area that Birmingham effected a few years ago and is gradually filling up. Another example is afforded by Swansea, which has made a great and noble beginning in such planning.

Next we have the need for open spaces in the central area. In this respect I think we may congratulate

Leeds on being a pioneer city in providing open spaces in the centre of the town. Cities have provided an enormous amount of space in parks for the recreation of their inhabitants, but we spend a great amount of our time in the centre of the city. It was sad to see a large city like Liverpool give up an open space because they had a very excellent offer from Woolworth's to buy it. It is most encouraging that grass and flowers do so marvellously well in the centres of many of our industrial towns. I think it must be the increased skill in town gardening which has brought about these results. It used to be said in Manchester that no tree would grow in the centre of the town. They had to bring trees in tubs to the front of the Town Hall and carry out their corpses at the end of summer; but that state of affairs no longer exists.

Then there is the markets question. Most towns are saddled with out-of-date markets. Markets are a most essential feature of every big industrial town, and there is a complete muddle generally between the several types of markets. There is the wholesale system and the retail system. The retail market is the prototype of the modern store. There is a third type of market—the rag and bone market—which also should be an essential feature of the central market scheme. Closely allied we have the very delicate subject—that most sensitive of all central improvements—the increase of the shopping area. The layout and the planning of a new shopping street is the most hazardous thing any town can embark upon, because no one can gauge where the shopper will go. It depends almost entirely upon the caprice of the ladies. We must commend those towns that have set aside new areas to increase the shopping areas. We have one example in the famous Headrow in Leeds. The slowness with which these are taken up should not discourage us, as it is very difficult to get the public to increase the area in which they carry out their shopping.

Finally, I think I may say you have the industrial or warehouse area: so many of these areas are themselves in or near the centre. There is enormous scope for the architect's skill in replanning those central areas. There is need for replanning on a bold yet detailed scale. The redevelopment for housing has its counterpart in the industrial redevelopment. It may be necessary for a city to buy buildings or land not included in areas at present cleared. I believe it would be very good business if they did so, and I hope this opportunity of providing better planned sites for industries which require skilful design is not being neglected.

On the general question of housing I would like to remind ourselves that there is a major and a minor aspect of the subject. There is the sociological aspect which has been referred to this morning. As to where we shall place our population there is that inner ring of the town which I think generally will not be used for housing. There is the immediate outer ring which

requires radically remodelling. There is the rehousing in the further outer ring—the filling up of the suburban areas—and there is the planning of completely new areas. The minor questions are the actual way we are going to carry out the rehousing. We have a three-fold method of building—little groups, the terrace formation, and flats—highly controversial subjects all of them. I am not going to say a word about flats or cottages to-day in a controversial way; I am merely going to say that in my view the use of high flats should not be for the purpose of increasing density. There is, of course, a limited increase which is permissible. If you take housing at the normal suburban standard of 12 to the acre, if you are going to put these people in ten-storey flats to obtain the same amount of light, air and space you should only increase your density by 50 per cent.—only 18 or 20 per acre at the most. The difference between 12 and 18 or 20 in the increased space required by them is comparatively small. In other words, the use of flats has very little effect on the area covered by a city. You do hear people say that if you only build flats you could reduce the size of cities to a fraction of their size. I do not agree. Flats combined in the same area with houses, either terraced or detached, form an alternative and I think a useful method of housing people; but it is idle to say that flats are going to turn us from a love of houses with gardens. There are always some who would like to live in a pseudo-Arcadia and garden suburb is an absolutely ingrained characteristic of the English race. *Et ego in pseudo-Arcadia vixi* (for 25 years).

Zoning has three functions. First is directive, the second corrective, the third protective. Directive zoning says where new industries, new shops and new buildings should go. Corrective zoning deals with the older part of the city which requires putting into shape. Protective zoning is the one which affects the architect very much. It has been suggested recently that the protection of the leafy beauty of our outer suburbs is snobbishness. It is not snobbish at all. That beauty is a common possession of all of us and to suggest that you should cut down most of the trees and cover their gardens with houses at a much higher density is to destroy the beauty of our suburbs. Corrective zoning acts by eliminating things which are discordant—it is only by degrees that we can do this; but industries or houses in the wrong place cannot indefinitely be left there.

There is another interesting aspect which has been given attention recently. The civic centre should have its corresponding neighbourhood centres in the rest of the town structure. Housing schemes provide the obvious centres of these focal points. What should be the size of the smallest unit, I am not prepared to say; but the whole site should be gone over carefully with a view of the essential focusing of public life at certain

definite points. A small group of shops may give you an indication of what is the focal point.

Open spaces are all important—they are an introduction of nature into the town. Most of our towns are well off for actual parks, but there is an essential need of more playground areas. Many towns are very badly off for the smallest sized playground for small children. Open spaces should break up the solid slabs of housing schemes, thus helping to form neighbourhood centres. Exits from the town to the country—the escape motive—should also be planned. Finally, there is the most popular of open spaces, the green belt. This is to be obtained partly by purchase and also by the reservation of farm lands. I hope that every city is going to plan its green belt. It is a fact that drains and the green belt are closely allied. Don't drain too rapidly, and you can buy the land for the belt! That is my advice. The question of the open belt around the town brings me to the point of general policy with regard to the limitation of the size of your town. This is the most difficult thing of all, because the whole question is bound up with the local authorities. It is a question for co-operation between local authorities as to what are the best areas for efficient growth.

The last factor is that of communications in your great city; and if I have left it to the last, it is partly because this is generally settled and decided on first, although we do know that various Ministers of Transport seem to change their ideas of what they require more rapidly than anybody else. From the very beginning of the road planning the advice of the architect is absolutely essential, and I hope that people will learn from the dreadful results of the past in not consulting architects sufficiently early.

I intend saying nothing as to how this development plan for a great city can be prepared nor have I said anything about what it will cost. But it is certain that if such a development plan is *not* prepared, the cost will be enormously more in the long run. I would like to say finally two things. First, a development plan ought to be and can be prepared *now*; even where towns have begun statutory planning without having this major scheme before their eyes, it is not too late. Secondly, that it is essential for the good of the community that the architect himself should contribute his share towards the making of this development plan.

DISCUSSION

Mr. G. W. ATKINSON [F.]: I have listened with the greatest interest to one of the most interesting papers I have ever heard. It is full of common sense. In a town like this I think we must realise that the City Council and its advisers have done their best. It is a difficult problem. A town like Leeds is extraordinarily difficult because it spreads about an area and you have always got the dreadful question of transport. With regard to open spaces, which I have had something to do with in Leeds for the last 40 years, it has been the policy of one of the charities of Leeds not to concentrate on big parks, but to get things like the Garden of Rest in Merrion Street and the open space which they are now preparing near the Town Hall—small places where people can go and sit down, where you can see grass and trees in the middle of a city instead of being scattered on the outside, where they are very desirable as open spaces and playing fields and useful on Bank Holidays. I think there is a great deal in what Professor Abercrombie has said about not being in a hurry to use up the cleared central spaces.

Mr. G. H. GRAYSON [F.]: I suppose I have known our lecturer more years than anyone else in this room; I should not like to say when I first knew him. I should just like to emphasise one point which he made in the earlier part of his paper. He talked of the value of very small open spaces. Some of you in this room know the town of Constantinople. I think it is the most beautiful town I have ever known. It is a town of wooden buildings, and the Unspeakable Turk has a way of getting through legislation which is not orthodox in this country. Fires have been a terrible trouble from time immemorial in Constantinople. Some 40 or 50 years ago the powers that be there decreed that where a wooden house ceased to exist generally by fire, a wooden house should not

take its place. The result is there are countless little empty spaces in every street where beautiful trees have sprung up amongst the houses, giving a charming greenery effect to the city.

Mr. C. B. HOWDILL [A.]: Professor Abercrombie has mentioned the control of the shopping areas. Now, Mr. Atkinson, the President of the West Yorkshire Society, has lived all his life in Leeds, and I think he will agree with me that somehow or other the shopping centre in Leeds is gradually moving west, and during the last few years, with the advent of the Headrow, shopping is leaving the southern side of Boar Lane and going slightly north. Now in all the big cities there are architects who must know the trend and can guide in the direction of the planning of the shopping centres. They in conjunction with the town authorities can help in the way of controlling the layout of shops and say where shops will come. On the point mentioned by a speaker relating to Constantinople and green spaces, directly after the War I was in London, and in Wood Street, where some of the buildings had been bombed and burnt out, the sites were covered with greenery. I was amazed to see this because we can hardly get greenery to grow in the centre of Leeds. London, which has a much greater density of population, evidently has not such a poisonous atmosphere.

Mr. H. M. FLETCHER [F.]: I am not going to comment on Professor Abercrombie's paper, for I regard him as a master on the subject, but I would like to put in a plea for one thing which I think is being neglected in towns, and that is—seats. We never get enough seats in any of our towns as compared with what you find in cities on the Continent. The Garden of Rest mentioned by Mr. Atkinson brought up in my mind a garden surrounded with seats on

which workers can sit down. London is terribly under-seated. The only place that I know that is adequately provided with them is Lincoln's Inn Fields, and there the whole year through, even when it is raining, you will find those seats crowded with people. And so I put in that plea. If I may return to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's magnificent paper, the subconscious seems to have been working in me during Professor Abercrombie's paper and I was able when he had finished to see a little more clearly the wonderful masses of detail and the breadth of view in Mr. Goodhart-Rendel's paper. A point which has been very much in my mind for a good many years is the collaboration between engineers and architects and I notice that this is often spoken of in architects' gatherings as a most desirable thing. What I want to know is whether there is any feeling of that kind among engineers. Do they want the help of architects? They certainly need it! I do not believe if architects had been employed on the Tube railways in London they would have put the public staircases and lifts a quarter-mile from the train. But that sort of thing does not interest engineers. I suggest that a subject of campaign which Mr. Goodhart-Rendel might take up in his two presidential years should be to persuade engineers that they might be a little better off by collaborating with architects.

Mr. A. C. BUNCH [F.] : I have listened with much interest to Professor Abercrombie because I happen to be an architect who has certain duties to perform in connection with town planning. Professor Abercrombie has called our attention to the fact that the powers in the Town and Country Planning Act are very meagre, but that there is a great deal which local authorities could do outside the scope of the Act. But unfortunately when the local authorities commence hopefully to do these things there is the question of compensation. Now I will just point out what is happening. In my district there are two very large industrial towns about 20 miles apart, and the town planning arrangements contemplate a green belt between these two cities. Purely agricultural land at present, 750 acres in one spot has gone into an ownership and a plan has been deposited for an industrial town and a population of about 30,000 people right in the middle of what was hoped to have been the green belt between the two towns. Now the authorities are quite impotent actually to stop this building development unless they undertake this responsibility of compensation, and of course if the plan is deposited the compensation is to be on the lines of land that is ripe for building development, and the whole thing becomes almost a dead letter. What I am trying to point out is that while in conferences of this kind and in town planning conferences we may hopefully take the suggestions for the making of a better and brighter England, the real trouble in the background is the question of money, and unless the Government is able to strengthen the Town and Country Planning Act a great many of these good intentions and desires will not be realised simply because you cannot afford to pay for them.

Mr. C. H. ASLIN [F.] : I only speak because Mr. Bunch sounds very doleful and I should hate the meeting to go away with the impression that it was quite impossible to carry out works of this kind because of the cost involved. You cannot, of course, expect people to give away their own private money for enterprises which are for the benefit of the community. That would be ideal, but you will not get it. I am here representing the County Borough of Derby. I hesitate to mention a small town like Derby in such a large town as

Leeds, but it was brought to my mind by Professor Abercrombie's paper and by this question of cost that some nine years ago Derby bought a matter of 15 acres comprising the whole of the centre of the town. They pulled down the buildings on the site and on it they provided a great 'bus station, which merely works like a railway station, and an open market, which took the place of what Professor Abercrombie describes as the rag and bone market. They also took the opportunity of providing open spaces and gardens, and I have been astonished how things not only grow but grow marvelously. This space is provided with seats where people sit at lunch-time and watch the river go by. All these things have been provided and apart from the part which has been used for municipal buildings the whole area is revenue producing, and not only so, it is having an amazing effect on the rateable value of the neighbourhood. My experience is that you cannot arrange your shopping areas, but the 'bus station, which at Derby deals with not less than 35,000 passengers per day, must have an effect on the shopping in the district. I do wish to point out that some authorities have got vision and are prepared to pay for what they think is in the interests of their city.

The PRESIDENT : It only remains for me to express on your behalf our thanks to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and to Professor Abercrombie for their very interesting papers. With regard to Mr. Abercrombie's paper we have had two suggestions for providing those open spaces in the centre of a town. One was by bombing and the other incendiaryism. I think even the cost of drained land would be cheaper in the long run. I think Mr. Henry Fletcher has very aptly expressed our feelings with regard to Mr. Goodhart-Rendel. I think myself that we should have the debate on his paper a week afterwards. I ask you to give a very hearty vote of thanks to those two gentlemen for their papers this morning.

Mr. GOODHART-RENDEL : Mr. Henry Fletcher asks, are the engineers conscious of how badly they need us. Well, certainly my inference has been that their one idea is that architects should be treated as it has been suggested towns have been treated. I think they prefer bombs to incendiaryism. They consider the whole profession to be redundant. I think that is a thing that has to be countered, but such a campaign will take more than two years. If we also did not take the line that engineers ought to be bombed they might take a more charitable attitude towards us.

Professor ABERCROMBIE : On the question of shopping areas I think the speaker agreed with me. What I meant to say was that the shopping areas are what I might call a sensitive plan. When Sir Raymond Unwin designed Letchworth, he designed a very beautiful shopping street, but found very soon that no one would take a shop in it; they preferred a street nobody had thought of leading to the railway station. Cost is at the root of everything, but I do not think it is the primary job of us architects. Our job is to show people what is the right thing to do—a reasonably prepared plan that can be carried out. I am very glad the gentleman from Derby spoke and I agree that if action is taken on a bold enough scale it will pay in the long run. As to collaboration between architects and engineers, I would like to say that in the preparation of planning schemes the most happy relations can and do exist between the three great professions, the architect, the engineer and the surveyor. It is essential that the three should work together from the very beginning.

THE CONFERENCE

Urged by loyalty rather than enthusiasm, one visitor among many hurried perspiring, from his train to the City Art Gallery for the informal reception on the first evening. Even the fleeting view of Dobson's *Margaret Readings* and a Dobson drawing on the stair and glimpses of yet more exciting pictures beyond were not enough to relieve the depth of gloom that fell on him when he heard "a concert is about to begin"; because who does not know what "a concert" is, and the depth of banality that is reached too often in programme building for a reception at which music is a background no more important and certainly less essential to well-being than claret cup and ices? But the concert which Mr. G. W. Atkinson, the "local president," introduced was one to flatter Leeds' visitors and honour Leeds—and set conference members full of anticipation for what other treats the conference could offer to match this superlatively good *hors-d'œuvre*. The performers, Dorothy Hess and Elsie Suddaby ("Leeds girls, both of them"), gave a concert as near architectural as a concert could be in content and form. Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fuge, magnificently, acidly, played by Dorothy Hess, was followed by a group of songs by Mozart, Bach, Brahms, Schumann and Schubert, sung by Miss Suddaby. The second part of the concert opened with Miss Hess playing Brahms' Capriccio in B Minor and Intermezzo in A Flat, Chopin's Impromptu in A Flat and Szymanowski's Etude in B Minor, and Miss Suddaby ended the programme with songs by Armstrong Gibbs and Parry.

For all this we had to thank Mr. Atkinson, who set a pace for the conference which few conferences could maintain, but Leeds succeeded in doing so. At that same informal reception there was more to look at (apart from the visitors) than usual. The normal gallery collection is one of the most stimulating in the country. The water-colour collection, normally strong, was enhanced by the addition of a loan collection of sixty pictures of Yorkshire scenery by Cotman (three of these lent by the late Mr. Sydney Kitson), Cox, Fielding, Girtin, Thomas Malton, Rowlandson, Turner, Varley, de Wint and others. A stimulating apéritif to Leeds and to the visits to many of these scenes which we were to pay on Thursday and Friday. Of more immediate professional interest was the show of work by the Leeds School of Architecture in the East gallery. Perhaps the most interesting thing about it was the evidence it gave of the way the students are encouraged to study the type of subjects of immediate and local importance. The students, most of them Leeds men, live in an area where certain problems such as housing and planning and industrial building are naturally predominant (we might say where is it that they are not). By concentrating a due proportion of the students' time on such subjects the school course not only fits

them for the special jobs they will have to undertake, but shows the leaders of local life that the school is training men who will be able to make valuable contributions to Leeds, and helps to make Leeds generally pay attention to the school.

On the following morning the conference began its serious business with the inaugural meeting, held in the chemistry theatre, where in a faint aroma of, no doubt, poisonous gases almost every member of the conference listened to the best mayoral speech of welcome that we can remember, to Sir James Baillie, the Vice-Chancellor, to Mr. Percy Thomas's inaugural and valedictory address, and to two scintillating speeches from Mr. Goodhart-Rendel and Professor Abercrombie. All these are printed in this JOURNAL. Mr. Goodhart-Rendel suavely knocked down the ninepins of other people's ideas with such effect that no one seemed inclined to set them up again; Professor Abercrombie careered brilliantly through the problems of an industrial city, combining criticism and congratulation, encouragement and warning in, always, a constructive way. His address, like that which Professor Holford gave at Southampton last year, was a positive contribution to Leeds progress to offset to some extent the limitless hospitality of the city to us.

That same evening, after visits round Leeds, the conference met, again under the ægis of the Lord Mayor, in the Town Hall, rather unfortunately decorated like a pier pavilion, so that not even the most persistently architectural of us could elucidate the bold elaborations of Broderik's building behind the forest of trellis and streamers and the banked hydrangeas. But that mattered not at all once we had set to to a grand dance on an excellent floor with an excellent band, and with innumerable dance-worthy architectural wives and daughters. The last dancers tottered home to their hotels in the early hours and, as far as can be told, were all more or less ready to start on the whole day tours which filled Friday until the banquet, also held in the Town Hall, from which some streamers and lanterns had by then been removed.

The Leeds conference was one of the best there has ever been. Throughout its organisation seemed faultless, the variety and quality of the fare provided was such that no one could complain that his private interests had not been met. The local committee and its sub-committees all deserve enthusiastic congratulations. May we hope that in addition to whatever pleasure they may have found in giving so many visitors such a galaxy of entertainment they will benefit in due course from a fulfilment of one of the central purposes of a conference, the stimulation of architectural interest, already as we have seen alive in Leeds, so that the part they can play in its progress shall never be neglected.

THE CONFERENCE BANQUET

The Conference Banquet was held in the Town Hall on 25 June. The guests were received by the Presidents of the R.I.B.A. and the West Yorks Society and Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Atkinson.

After the loyal toasts, proposed by the President, the Chairman-elect of the R.I.B.A. Allied Societies Conference, Mr. JAMES R. ADAMSON [F.], proposed the toast of the *City of Leeds*.

I think it an honour and a privilege to be permitted to-night to propose this toast of "The City of Leeds" on behalf of the R.I.B.A. In the days when the Irish question was a more alive one than happily it is to-day, it used to be considered that the Irish Secretaryship was the grave of political reputations, and I am prepared to-night to maintain against all comers that in a toast list on an occasion such as this the toast of the Conference city may be considered justly to be the grave of after-dinner speakers' reputations. I feel myself already to have one foot in the grave in respect of any aspirations for oratorical fame that I may have; and I am sure that I shall only escape from complete entombment by virtue of the importance and dignity of the city with which I am called upon to deal to-night.

Our Institute has its Conference year by year in various parts of the country, but, sir, I can say wholeheartedly that to no part of our land do we come with greater goodwill, greater interest, and with greater anticipations of pleasure than those which animated us when we came to Leeds. Yorkshire hospitality is known and acclaimed the world over, and in Leeds this week we have had definite and tangible proof that that hospitality has lost nothing of its savour or of its heartiness to-day.

Since the beginnings of civilisation, wherever men have gathered together and built cities, their common strivings have given civic traditions and civic pride. To feel themselves "citizens of no mean city" has been a source of pride and also of strength and encouragement to thousands of our fellow men since the days of St. Paul; and in this regard the citizens of Leeds are noteworthy. They are, not unjustly, animated by fierce civic pride without any false modesty, and, indeed, who shall say they are not justified in their admiration of and their faith in their city?

There is a story told of a young cavalry subaltern who one night was dancing with one of the bright young things of the period, and not getting on too well. In explanation of his clumsiness he ventured to apologise in these words: "I am very sorry, but I am just a little stiff from polo." To which the young lady airily replied: "Your birthplace is of no interest to me."

Well, sir, I am glad to think that with regard to this city of Leeds we differ entirely from that young woman.

We have a very great interest in and a very great regard for Leeds. The city had its beginnings in an ancient past, but, better than that ancient past, it has acquired a great present. Famous in many spheres of trade and industry, it is supreme in its command of the woollen industry, and there are few of us who have not been bound with its filaments of fine wool.

Not only is it famed for its trade, but it has contributed its share to culture through its university, whose fine buildings were designed by distinguished members of our Institute, and in music, medicine and surgery. In civic enterprise, too, it has made its mark on our times. Nor would the catalogue be complete without reference to the city's share in the cricket fame of the county. Its cricket team is the pride as well as the despair of its opponents.

In these many varied fields of endeavour we bear our tribute to the worth and high enterprise of this great county of lovely dales. With the toast of "The City of Leeds" I couple the name of its present first citizen, the Lord Mayor, who has given many years of public service in many spheres to his fellow men. I would thank him on behalf of the R.I.B.A. for the great kindness and very friendly welcome which has been proffered to us in Leeds.

The LORD MAYOR (Mr. Tom Coombs, J.P.), responding to the toast, said:

I claim to be very sensitive to atmosphere. When I was privileged, in the delightful building of Leeds University on Thursday morning, to offer a civic welcome to the members of your great Institute, although my presence with you was but for a very brief period, I could not help but be susceptible to the good fellowship that you had evinced, which was increased when I had the privilege of meeting you in these rooms last night and exemplified again by the delightful manner in which this toast has been submitted for your acceptance.

It was as far back as last November that I first established contact with that very delightful gentleman—a Leeds man—Mr. Norval Paxton. Subsequently I had the privilege of meeting Sir Ian MacAlister. I felt at once that he was a kindred soul, with whom I could establish a very warm and a very personal friendship. When I realised that there was a probability that your body would in its wisdom see fit to hold its annual Conference in Leeds I determined that so far as lay in my power I would do everything I could for you, because I felt that your presence here would add lustre to the city and that it would be one of the most outstanding and important events of the whole year. And, now that you have been to Leeds, and now that you have seen us and realise what manner

of men we are, I hope that those who were responsible in the first instance for suggesting the holding of the Conference in our city will feel perfectly justified in the action they took, and I hope that any who may have doubted the wisdom of it have by now come to the conclusion that it was a right step on your part and that your presence in the city has been of incalculable benefit to you and that you may go away feeling that you have had a highly successful and encouraging Conference.

For this great city of ours I offer no apology for the past, over which we have no control, but I do say that we have to realise that we have a serious responsibility for the future. And this city is realising this responsibility in a first-rate fashion.

It is tackling the problems before it with ability and enterprise and probably with greater expedition than is any other city in the kingdom. Now my attention has been called to a journal which claims to speak for your great profession. I cannot say whether it does or not, but the first thing in it is an article in this month's journal in which the writer draws a comparison between the mentality of your great profession in a line drawn between the Severn and the Wash and between those on the north of that line and those on the south. The inference is that the greater intellectual capacity and culture resides with those on the south of that line. Now, I resent any possible aspersions being cast on those with whom I have broken salt. I like to stick up for my friends, and I make no distinction between the north and the south. I don't intend to express myself in regard to any paragraphs in this very weird and wonderful article. Probably some phraseology of some very capable newspaper editor has been paraphrased by the writer of this article, because it is rather in this wonderful style. Here is a paragraph from it: "While reform was in the air, while the Great Exhibition dazzled the country, while the Indian Army marched to and fro in front of the Russian boggy, and Egypt slid gracefully into Cromer's lap, Leeds went on paying for most of it. The mills of Yorkshire gave place to steam-driven looms, sheep vanished from the hills, and the landowners, the Established Church, the Government, the universities, and civilisation left Leeds, and places like it, to look after themselves. And with their patrons, architects also washed their hands of Leeds."

Now, I wish that some of the architects had continued to keep their hands off Leeds, and I don't think Leeds would have been any worse off. I just want to say a word. I don't think I have any right to speak as a champion of the Church of England, but here is a statement that the Church of England left Leeds to look after itself. Just imagine the gross ignorance of a statement of that description, when this city of Leeds within fifty years has given an Archbishop to Canterbury, and has supplied more Bishops than any other city in the country. Sitting on my right is the Lord

Bishop of Wakefield, born in this city and whose education for ten years of his life was received in Leeds Grammar School. The article suggests that the city of Leeds is uncultured, though it possesses an intellectual giant like Sir James Baillie as head of its own university. In the last few years Sir James has raised £600,000 for Leeds University, and within the last fifty years for the old Yorkshire College and the university considerably over one million and a quarter pounds have been raised.

I hope that you who represent this great profession have enjoyed your stay in Leeds, and I hope you will have a different opinion of Leeds. If Leeds, in the fullness of time, is again favoured with a visit from you, those of you who are spared to come again will then be able to judge whether we have made good our boast that we are tackling the great problems in front of us with expedition and with ability, and as well as, if not better than, any other city in the kingdom.

The VICAR OF LEEDS (Canon W. Thompson Elliott) next proposed the toast of "The Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied Societies." He said:

It is a matter of some perplexity to me to know why I have been chosen for the very signal honour of proposing this toast. I appreciate the compliment that has been paid to me. I think an explanation probably lies in the fact that during the last year I have received the Bronze Medal of the R.I.B.A., not for my personal achievements in architecture, but for my perspicacity in choosing somebody who showed the capacity to produce a building which has received the Bronze Medal for the best building produced in the West Riding of Yorkshire in the last three years. It struck me as being a most ingenious idea on the part of the Institute that when a building had been selected for the high honour of this bronze medal they should duplicate the medal and present the replica to the person who has the perspicacity to select the architect.

I always prefer, when I am on a toast list, to be well down on the list, because you can generally pick up some ideas from those who precede you, and I have been interested to listen to the speech of Mr. Adamson, and also, as always, to the speech of the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

One thing I gathered from Mr. Adamson was that he certainly comes from the same side of the Border as "the intellectual giant of Leeds" and myself. I judge that, not from what remains of his Scottish accent, which, like a great many other people, he has lost since he came south, but from the fact that he introduced into his speech a very appropriate mention of the Apostle St. Paul. I cannot really suppose that any English architect could have found any occasion to have introduced such a reference at such a gathering, but I would inform Mr. Adamson that he is entirely mistaken—I am surprised the Lord Mayor did not point this out—in supposing that the

special industry of Leeds is what he calls the woollen industry. We do in Leeds make clothing, but the clothing is made out of cloth which comes from neighbouring towns for which we have very little regard! I would inform Mr. Adamson and other visitors to this city that Leeds has very distinct characteristics which it claims ought to be easily recognisable in comparison with Bradford, Wakefield, Halifax, Dewsbury and other places that produce wool. I hope that Mr. Adamson, when he next comes to Leeds, which I hope will be before very long, will understand that we are not to be confused with those merely wool producers which I have named. That is about the only thing I gathered from the speeches of my predecessors except that, as always, I admired the courageous upholding of Leeds which was manifest in the speech of my good friend the Lord Mayor. Leeds has got a great champion in the Lord Mayor and we are very proud of him.

In proposing this toast I am completely baffled at the relationship between the R.I.B.A. and its Allied Societies, although I have taken some trouble to discover what this relationship is. Your kindly and indefatigable secretary, Sir Ian MacAlister, provided me with literature which I presume he thought I should have time to digest. There was a lot of it, and what I was able to read of it I thoroughly enjoyed, but I confess I did not unravel the mystery as to what is the precise relationship between the R.I.B.A. and its Allied Societies. I take it that these relations are entirely friendly, that they are co-operative, that they have all the same interests at heart, and that it is very proper that they should all be united in one toast, giving due pre-eminence to the R.I.B.A. I hope I am right in all that.

I have a personal satisfaction in being asked to propose this toast because I have had a good deal to do with architects lately, and I am bound to say to you that I like architects! We are engaged, as some of you may know, in a campaign for building churches in the vast new housing areas which surround this city, and the building of something like eight new churches in the last few years has brought me into contact with architects. However profoundly architects may differ from one another in their personal and professional qualities they have at least this in common, they are very nice fellows. I do really think that architects as a whole are an extraordinarily nice lot of men. It has been impressed on me also that they have got the right spirit and the right attitude towards their work. They are clever, and they all want to produce work which is not only creditable to themselves but work which fulfills the purpose they have been commissioned to build for, and the profession of architecture is one which necessarily is increasing in importance and significance, and it is greatly to the public interest and welfare that this should be so. It differs from all other arts by the fact that it is essentially a public art.

Every building is a public monument. You cannot hang a building on your bedroom wall or reproduce it on a gramophone for your private delight. A building stands in the sight of all men and the influence of buildings, whether they be good or bad, is a public influence, and therefore of public importance. And this to my mind distinguishes the art and the profession of architecture from all other comparable arts. It is essentially public in its character, and its influence cannot be avoided by the public who view the buildings which architects have created. The Lord Mayor has said that we are not responsible for the past, but we are responsible for the present and also in a great measure for the future, because within limits its products are permanent. You can easily destroy the products of some arts, but to destroy the production of the art of architecture costs money and is very rarely done, except under pressure. The pressure at the present time, I gather, is considerable. Architecture, again, is the art of designing buildings which are suited, both inwardly and outwardly, to their specific purpose, while conforming also with their surroundings. By the genius of the architect a building may be made to harmonise. Very rarely has a building the privilege of standing completely by itself, and it must be made to harmonise with its neighbours. One of the things which has always struck me about the church which won the Bronze Medal is that it fulfills to a remarkable degree the purpose of a church and at the same time conforms most harmoniously with the long brick wall of a public laundry which is next door to it. The architect was astute enough to achieve this harmony, which is no small part of its merit.

The Lord Mayor, in extolling the merits of Leeds, seemed to me to evade the subject of its architecture. I don't know whether this was deliberate or by accident, but I hope my friends of the R.I.B.A. have found Leeds architecturally quite an interesting city to visit. We are not really such a dud lot north of the datum line as some of you would suppose. We have got some ideas, and we do put them into practice. What puzzles me is that people who want to build commercial things, like banks, have any amount of money to spend on them, whereas we who have to put up buildings which really mean something, like churches, have to do the job with the strictest economy. Yet you cannot arrive at any understanding of architecture unless you deal with intangibles and imponderables. It is just in proportion as architects can express the intangible and the imponderable that they raise architecture from being a purely mechanical business into a real art in which the spirit of mankind can express itself. The great opportunity of architecture to-day, the thing which to my mind makes architecture supreme among the arts, is that it has got a far greater opportunity of expressing the intangibles and imponderables on the mind of the general public than any other art whatever.

The public are not interested in pictures or music, but they all see your buildings, and it is the great opportunity of the architect that he can express the aspirations, the hopes and the endeavours of mankind in ways that are beautiful and significant and lovely in the eyes of the multitude. That is the real reason why I count it a privilege to propose this toast, coupling with it the names of your President, and of my very good friend, George Atkinson, the President of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects.

The PRESIDENT, responding, said :

My first duty is to thank Canon Elliott for the refreshing way in which he has proposed this toast. I am not very sure whether he was toasting us or not, and I rather suspect that his reading of the literature which Sir Ian MacAlister sent him was not as casual as he would have us think. Another duty I have to perform is to thank you, my Lord Mayor, and the City Council of Leeds, for the wonderful hospitality you have shown us. I mentioned in my inaugural address all the various people who have been so very good to us, but last night I did not have the opportunity of telling you how very much we appreciated the lovely evening you gave us. In other towns we have had receptions and hospitality, but I think I am interpreting the feelings of all our members when I say that there was some little thing extra which made last night so successful, and I think that little thing was the charm and personality of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

The advantage of the system whereby we hold our Conferences in a different town every year is that it not only gives our members an opportunity of getting to know their own country, but it gives the citizens of those towns an opportunity of knowing something of architects; what we do, and, what is much more important, what we hope to do in the future to remove, perhaps, the impression which still survives in some quarters that we are only artists and dreamers.

I hope we are artists, and if we were not dreamers we could contribute very little to the advancement of civilisation. But what we do want to emphasise is that, above all, we are practical men, living in a practical age, and that to put our dreams into execution we must take advantage of all the resources which science and industry have placed at our disposal.

But even with all this there still remains one essential requirement, and that is the help, the co-operation and the encouragement of our national and municipal leaders.

That is why these Conferences, giving as they do opportunities for the exchange of views with the leaders of a great city like this, are of inestimable value to the whole profession.

Architects, you know, get little opportunity for publicity. Even if they design great buildings it is rarely that they are known to the general public.

Sir Christopher Wren was, of course, a great exception, and I am not forgetting that Sir Edwin Lutyens is known to quite a number of people because he designed a cenotaph and a dolls' house, and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott because he once designed a pipe rack and a telephone-box. But an architect has much more chance of fame by being the victim of a murder like the famous Stanford White than by his architectural achievements.

I referred in my inaugural address to the work which an architect should perform if the public are to get the fullest advantage of his services, and I do not wish to repeat that statement except to say that it is the most important aspect of our professional life to-day.

We are at the dawn of a new era, an era when planning will be the keynote of human progress, when the whole system of roads will be planned. Industries will be planned, not only themselves, but in relation to the needs of the people and the preservation of the countryside. We may even see new towns planned in place of the haphazard development of existing ones which is the general procedure to-day.

All this is perhaps one of our dreams, but it is a dream which, granted peace and prosperity, can very easily become fact, and just as we now refer to the days of the Industrial Revival, a future generation may refer to the years in front of us as the Planning Age. But the one left behind it squalor and ugliness, and the other can leave beauty, orderliness and efficiency, and it is because architects will play a great part in this development if it is to come that I say it is the most important aspect of our professional life.

My Lord Mayor, I feel that with so many toasts you do not expect anything in the nature of a long speech.

I want to say again, on behalf of all members of the Institute, how much we have enjoyed the hospitality of your citizens. I have many friends in this city; indeed, I may lay claim to some kind of citizenship, as I served for some considerable time in France with the old "Leeds Pals" Battalion, and still preserve a writing-pad which I used as a sketching block which has on it the inscription "From the people of Leeds to their lads at the front."

Will you forgive me, my Lord Mayor, if I conclude with a word to my own fellow members. This is my last appearance as your President, and I would like to say thank you for the loyalty and friendship that you have extended to me for the past two years. I am to be succeeded by a man whose brilliance and ability should raise the prestige of our Institute to still greater heights, and I know you will render to him that loyalty and support that you have so ungrudgingly given to me.

Mr. G. W. ATKINSON [*F.*], President of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, said:

It is my privilege to act as labourer to our President. He has been the bricklayer and has made the response, and all I have to do is to second it. I have one little story to tell you. A doctor and an architect were discussing together the respective values of their professions, and the architect said to the doctor: "You have a great advantage over me, you bury your failures while our's last a hell of a long time."

We have got to pull down and rebuild, not only in Leeds. Leeds is doing a great work of reconstruction. I have lived in Leeds over sixty years, and we have never had a Lord Mayor or a City Council who have so thoroughly and in such heart taken the development of Leeds on their shoulders. There is not a town council in the world who have got so much on their plate or are handling their job so efficiently. They have got a terrific task and we should give them every possible credit for what they are doing and for the way they are overcoming their difficulties. We are singularly fortunate in our Lord Mayor, and I should like to say, as President of the West Yorkshire Society, how much we appreciate the fineness, courtesy and loyal help everybody in this city has given us in order to make our Conference a success. One of our greatest pleasures of this Conference has been to meet our President. We are deeply sorry that he is going out of the chair.

Mr. HENRY M. FLETCHER [*F.*], honorary secretary, proposed the toast of "Our Guests." He said:

It was that inspired and inspiring teacher, Max Beerbohm, who once pointed out that the really logical nations of the world, the Romans and their descendants, the French, Italians and Spaniards, used the same word for hosts and guests. That leaves me free to talk about hosts. There is one who should have been among us to-night, and who should have been a host. He is a Leeds man, an Institute man and a host in himself. Need I mention his name—Sydney Kitson. It has been my impossible job for the last three years to follow one who has been frequently described by a good authority as the perfect honorary secretary, and I have lately had the great pleasure, which I hope many of you have shared, of reading that final life of John Sell Cotman, which he has lately published. I am sorry to say that his health is not such as his friends would hope for, and I want your leave to send him a telegram in some such words as these: "The R.I.B.A. banquet in Leeds sends you good wishes and affection."

For the main part our guests are Yorkshiremen. Now, what are Yorkshiremen? I am going to risk the displeasure of the Lord Mayor and make a territorial division. A friend of mine recently met a man who travels all over the country selling jewellery. This man said he divided his customers into three classes.

In London and the South they order from catalogues; when you come to the Midlands they order from samples; north of the Border you can only sell them the goods then and there, on the spot. Now it is evident that we in the South are the poor fish who are taken in by drawings and photographs. When an architect wants to bamboozle a client he makes him a drawing or he supplies him with a photograph. You can do anything with a photograph. The Yorkshire method is the golden mean.

There is one subject which has not been touched upon this evening which is under the control of our guests, and that is the Leeds School of Architecture. There are very few such schools in the country, and its examinations are recognised by the Institute for conferring the Associateship. That is largely due to the excellent work of its masters, Mr. Addison and Mr. Allen, who are both 'A' men and A1 men. With this toast I am coupling the name of Sir Bernard Lomas-Walker, the chairman of the West Riding County Council. The powers which are in Sir Bernard's hands are very large, and greatly influence and affect the welfare of the country. We hope the council will exercise all their powers of control of ribbon development and all other monstrosities to the full.

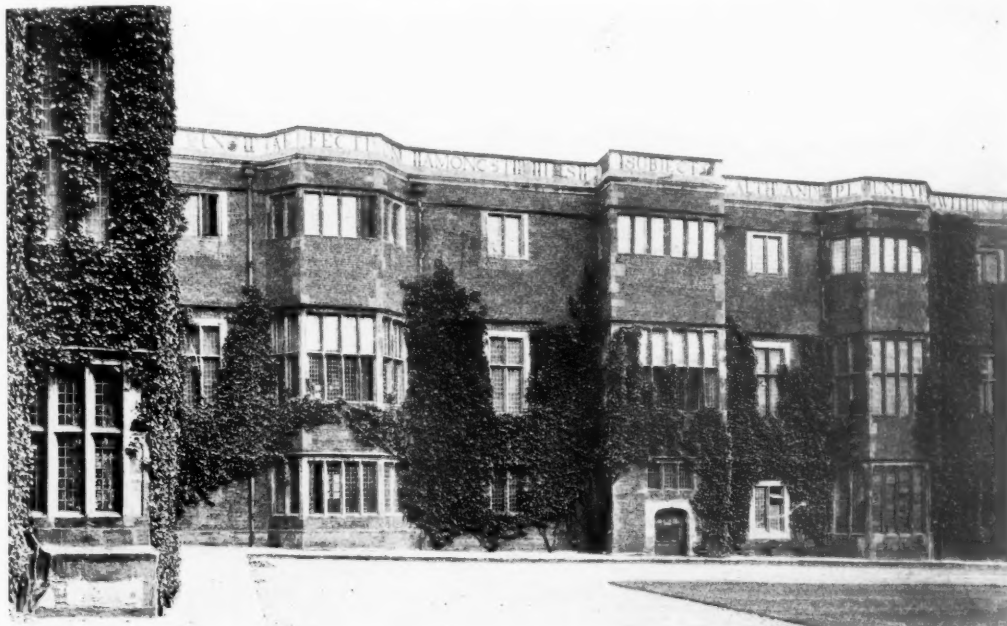
Sir BERNARD LOMAS-WALKER, responding, said:

I must, in the first instance, thank you and the members of your profession for the great hospitality and kindness which you have extended to us. I should also like to thank you as President of the Institute, and Sir Ian MacAlister, for the advice you gave me and some of my colleagues when we came to visit you and to discuss a very interesting experiment that we were making in the West Riding in the building of schools. I trust the results will prove that in this country we are not backward in this respect but that we are giving a lead to the world in modern schools.

May I say one or two words upon the tendencies of local government. It does appear as if there was a renewed tendency in Government departments to endeavour to centralise many of the services that local authorities now supply. I think it will be a very bad day for this country when services become centralised, in which even the local touch and the knowledge of the people amongst whom the elected representatives dwell ceases to exist. The danger of Parliament endeavouring to remove from local authorities many of their duties is very real, and I take the view that one of the greatest bulwarks against dictatorship either of the "Right" or of the "Left" is the system of local government that we have built up in this country. We must work hand in hand with the professions. Of course, the most important profession of all is naturally the law, because we are the raw material of the architects. The time must, I think, come that when public buildings are to be built we shall not rely on the services

of one architect or of one man, but shall be able to go to some council or representative body and say: "We are going to erect a public building and we ask for your criticism and help in planning it." I have the very onerous task in replying for the guests to speak on behalf of the ladies. I don't know myself whether there

are any lady architects. I am told there are some, but after all the ladies present, who are the wives of guests, are at any rate the architects of their husbands' fortunes. On behalf of the guests, I thank the proposer for the way he proposed the toast, and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the way in which you have received it.



Templenewsam

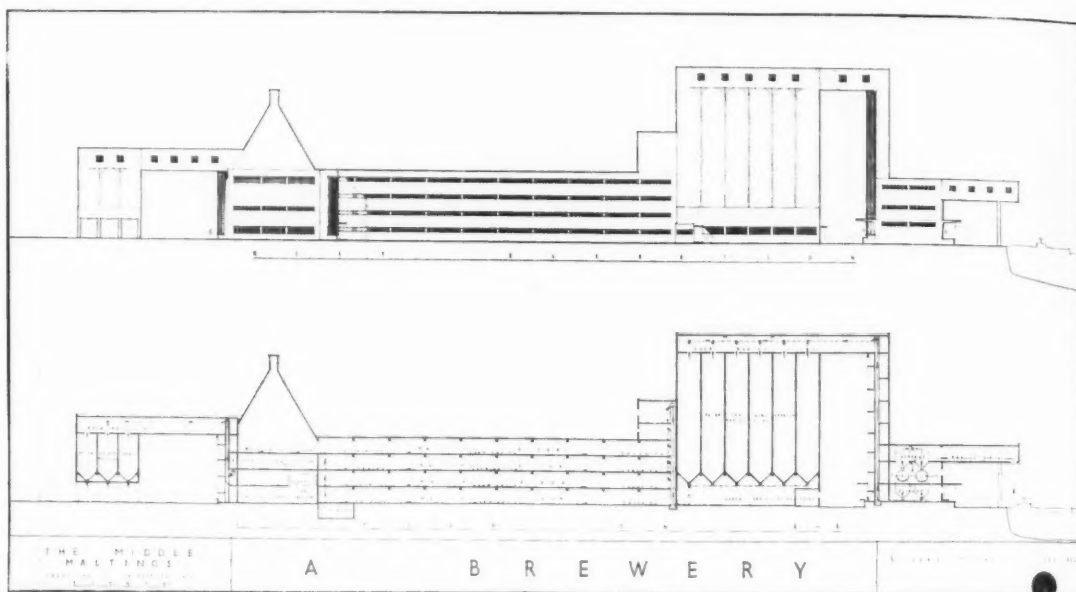
"Country Life" photo

Attendances at the Conference Banquet

In addition to the President of the Royal Institute and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. R. W. Atkinson, President of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, and Mrs. Atkinson, and the honorary officers of the West Yorkshire Society, most of the members of the conference attended the banquet, which was held in Leeds Town Hall on Friday, 25 June.

The company included a distinguished body of guests, among whom were the following:—The Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Leeds and the Lady Mayoress; the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Wakefield; the Worshipful the Mayor of Halifax; the Worshipful the Mayor of Huddersfield; the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Wakefield; Sir James Baillie, O.B.E., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds; County Alderman Sir Bernard Lomas-Walker, K.B.E., Chairman of the West Riding County Council; Colonel C. H. Tetley, D.S.O., D.L., Pro-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, and Mrs. Tetley; Sir Montague Burton, J.P., and Lady Burton; Lady Barran; Mr. Alderman R. H. Blackburn and Mrs. Blackburn; County Alderman W. B. Cartwright, Vice-Chairman of the West Riding County Council; Sir Leonard J. Coates, President of the Leeds, Bradford and District Society of Chartered Accountants; Sir Enoch Hill, General Manager, The

Halifax Building Society; Major J. Milner, M.C., M.P., President of the Leeds Law Institute; the Rev. Canon W. Thompson Elliott, the Vicar of Leeds; Mr. Alderman C. V. Walker and Mrs. Walker; Mr. James R. Adamson, Chairman of the R.I.B.A. Allied Societies' Conference; Sir Edwin Airey and Lady Airey; Colonel Walter Boyle, D.S.O.; Mr. Willie Brooke, M.P.; Mr. Councillor E. E. Bullus; Mr. Hugh Myddleton Butler, J.P., and Miss Butler; Colonel W. S. Camerson; Mr. N. L. Fleming, Town Clerk of Bradford; Mr. R. J. Gordon, City Librarian, Leeds; Mr. T. Nicholas Grimshaw, Town Clerk of Wakefield; Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, President of the Thoresby Society; Mr. Philip Hendy; Mr. Arthur Hillis, Chairman, Yorkshire Branch of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution; Mr. A. Hills, M.P.; Mr. Alderman E. J. Morrish; the Rev. Canon Jocelyn Perkins; Mr. Councillor G. Pick and Mrs. Pick; Mr. Percy Saunders, Town Clerk of Halifax; Mr. D. J. D. Smith, Headmaster, Heath School, Halifax; Mr. E. Percival Smith, Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School; Mr. Charles G. Soutar, President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland; Mr. A. J. Spilsbury, Headmaster of Wakefield Grammar School; Mr. Thomas Thornton, Town Clerk of Leeds; Mr. A. E. Wheeler, Registrar, the University of Leeds, and Mrs. Wheeler.



Fifth Year thesis design by Richard Thompson

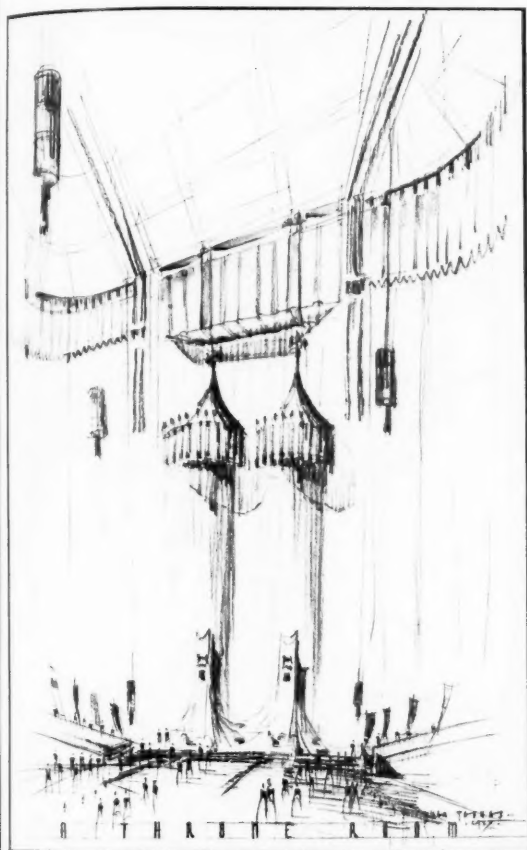
THE LEEDS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

SOME NOTES ON ITS TEACHING POLICY

The school, within the limits of its five-year course, sets out to give the student a general understanding of the arts and to equip him to meet the increasing demands which will be made upon the technical proficiency of the architect of to-morrow. No effort is spared to give a sense of reality to the training, and throughout each of the five years students are brought into direct contact with building operations. Selected buildings are visited at frequent intervals, building processes are closely followed, and the architect, contractor, clerk of works and foreman actively co-operate with the staff of the school. The first-hand knowledge thus gained is extremely valuable, and results in the student being able to approach problems of design with a confidence which would not be possible under the most elaborate system of theoretical training.

This realistic approach to design is also illustrated by the subjects chosen for presentation as theses for

the final examination. Whilst the more monumental or civic type of building is, of course, undertaken, students do not hesitate and indeed are encouraged to offer such subjects as a woollen mill, a clothing factory, a brewery or an oil and cake mill. The choice of such subjects is to some extent due to the school's geographical position in one of the most important industrial areas in the country, where the urgent need for an architectural approach to types of building design which for so long have been regarded as being outside the scope of normal architectural practice is particularly apparent. Collecting of data for this kind of programme provides extremely valuable training, as written information is usually scanty and individual research requires considerable initiative. The value of experience in presenting a mass of information in the form of an orderly and readable report and the necessity for dealing with actual costs and factory

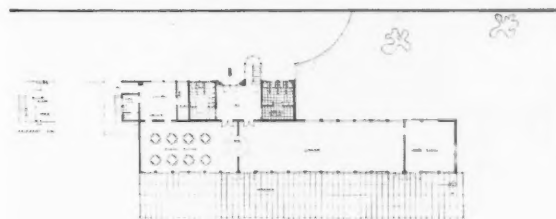


A Throne room, six hour sketch design by G.M. Thomas Fifth Year

Although the school regards as its most important function the training of the designer in the solution of contemporary problems, considerable attention is paid to the study of the history of the fine arts and craftsmanship, this study being carried to the consideration of the contributions of the 19th and 20th centuries. At a camp held annually outstanding examples of traditional architecture such as 18th-century houses or mediaeval churches are studied at first hand.

The department of Town and Country Planning and Housing which has been formed recently is a natural development of architectural study. Lectures in various aspects of planning form part of the syllabus of the third year and onwards in the normal architectural curriculum, and the full-time diploma course in planning involves individual or group research into the wider problems of planning. Here it would seem that the realistic approach to design stands the town-planning student in good stead, for, whilst it will be generally agreed that planning ideals are considerably

A C L V B H O V S E



An Aero Club House by H. D. Lee, Second Year

processes cannot be over-estimated. The experiment of admitting these industrial subjects as thesis programmes has been more than justified by the results, the work presented having demonstrated that the technical difficulties can often create new architectural possibilities.

Whilst special mention has been made of these problems, it should be explained that teaching is by no means confined to industrial architecture, but that programmes of a general character form a great part of the design subjects. Nevertheless, a realistic point of view is maintained throughout the course and may claim the advantage of helping the student to realise from the beginning that technical difficulties of construction planning and equipment are far from being the irritating necessities which they may have appeared in former days.

ahead of what is being achieved under present legislation, the planning carried out in the school is done with a full knowledge of technical considerations.

The above notes can indicate only some of the features of the work of the school, but it is hoped that they will give some indication of the manner in which educational methods are being adapted to meet changing conditions.

Conference Visits on Thursday, 24 June

VISIT "A."—LEEDS AND ITS BUILDINGS

Those of the party of about 60 people whose infrequent visits to Leeds had left only memories of a very black prince surrounded by black and not very comely maidens, and who associated with Leeds an atmosphere of grime-stained Victorian buildings, received much enlightenment. The evidences of courageous enterprise in tackling civic problems which confront most large industrial cities were illuminating.

Our tour included visits to buildings in the busiest quarters of the town, and we were grateful for the excellent traffic control and the fine broad thoroughfare, The Headrow, which expedited progress considerably.

Our party, which, like hymns and the buildings inspected, consisted of the ancient and the modern, included many of the leading official architects, and we were glad that two visitors from Australia, Mr. J. H. Harvey and Mr. P. B. Hudson, accompanied us.

The first halt was at the Queen's Hotel, at present in course of erection. Our hasty visit through a forest of steel scaffold poles left but a confused impression of what will undoubtedly be a notable contribution to hotel design.

Our next halt was at St. John's Church, reached through the Garden of Rest, a delightful addition to the amenities of the city, and one obviously much appreciated by the citizens. The sundial attracted much attention, the inscription on it being new to most of us.

"Alone he stands among the flowers
And only counts the sunny hours.
Dull days for him do not exist,
The Brazen Faced old optimist."

Mr. T. Butler Wilson, our excellent guide, drew upon his wide learning to make our visit to this unique Stuart church exceptionally interesting. The restful atmosphere was refreshing after the clamour which accompanied our visit to the "Queen's". The magnificence of the screen which stretches right across the two naves made an immediate and abiding impression.

Leaving the church, we stepped right from the 17th century into the latest developments of the 20th century when we proceeded to the Quarry Hill flats. We had passed specimens of back-to-back houses and were thus able to appreciate how successfully the City Council was remedying the unhealthy conditions. Mr. R. A. H. Livett and members of his staff were most helpful in explaining the Mopin system of vibrated concrete construction which is being used, and the presence of Monsieur Mopin afforded several of the party an opportunity of brushing up their French.

We were much impressed by the fine layout of the scheme, which provides large open spaces and playgrounds for children. The most interesting feature is undoubtedly the use of the Mopin system (its first application in England), which helps to solve the difficulty of the shortage of bricklayers in the North of England. Another interesting feature is the introduction of the Garchey system of refuse disposal. Before leaving the site we were able to inspect the factory in which the concrete units are made, and where the guides made valiant efforts to be heard above the deafening noise of the machinery.

The drive through the suburbs which followed was enjoyable, but we seemed to be fated to be accompanied by noise, as

even the peaceful atmosphere of our final destination, Roundhay Park, was marred by the military practising for the Tattoo.

Mr. J. S. Allen and Mr. E. C. Thompson were invaluable in explaining details of what was in every respect a most interesting and instructive tour.

ANTHONY J. STEEL [A.]

VISIT "B."—HAREWOOD HOUSE AND HARROGATE

We started off for the Thursday afternoon trip to Harewood and district in good spirits; the rain clouds which had threatened while the conference photograph was being taken at the end of the morning had cleared away. Leaving the Civic Hall Square punctually, thanks to the organising ability of Mr. Baker, we drove through an interesting old street with some fine examples of Georgian doorways, and thence past a housing estate out into the open wooded country, which we reached to my astonishment in ten minutes.

On making enquiries, I found that all the land on this side of Leeds belongs to Lord Harewood, who carefully preserves it, and thus secures for the inhabitants of Leeds a green belt on the north-east side.

After a pleasant drive through most beautiful country we arrived at the entrance lodge to Harewood House, where our excellent guides, Messrs. Paxton & Bain, asked us to alight for a walk of about twenty minutes to the house, but they had not bargained for the forethought of the Princess Royal and Lord Harewood, for we were told by the lodge-keeper to get back in the coaches as we could drive in. This astonished the driver of the coach I was in, as he turned to the President and remarked: "You must be a very distinguished party. I never have been allowed to do this before."

Harewood House, a commanding building in the Renaissance style, was at the time of our visit in the hands of the decorators, and we were therefore unable to go over it, but Mr. H. J. Hall, the head gardener, showed us over the gardens, pointing out that her Royal Highness is having a heath garden made under the balustraded terrace.

The house commands magnificent views over the park and lake to distant woods. In the park we noticed a number of peculiar black sheep which come from the Isle of St. Kilda.

Leaving Harewood, we drove through some fine wooded country and through the villages of Linton, Weatherby and Deighton to Ribston, too early in the year, alas, to sample the celebrated pippin which takes its name from this village!

The ruins of Knaresborough Castle are most interesting, but since we wanted to give as much time as possible to our visit to St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, we could not go over the castle keep. It was well worth hurrying on to see Temple Moore's church, a most delightful example of modern church work, of which Canon Bartlett, who kindly showed us over, may justly be proud.

Some considerable time was spent in the hall, the work of Leslie Moore. This building has a roof of the Lamella construction, a French patent, forming a curved roof without trusses, and giving a most pleasing effect. The verger's house, which groups in with the other buildings remarkably well, deserves special mention.

After an afternoon of such interesting sightseeing, the tea arranged for us at the Hotel Majestic was welcome. We returned to headquarters feeling pleased with the afternoon's jaunt and grateful to the organisers.

PERCIVAL C. BLOW [A.]

VISIT "C."—GUISELEY AND BRADFORD

Although this visit did not attract a large number of members, it proved to be of great interest and enjoyment to those taking part.

The party, after leaving headquarters, went through one of the largest slum areas scheduled for demolition, past the fine Cistercian Abbey of Kirkstall, and made their first halt at Guiseley. Here they were met by Canon Lowe, who conducted them through the garden and rectory. The latter is a fine Elizabethan house, built in 1601, although parts of it have been recently remodelled. It possesses that quiet charm and mellowness which is so typical of the Yorkshire manor house, and it was greatly admired by all. Canon Lowe then took the members round the church, where he explained all the many points of note in a manner which showed clearly the interest he had in the buildings.

Leaving Guiseley the party then went on to Bradford, where perhaps the most interesting part of the visit was awaiting—a tour round a woollen mill. The manager of Messrs. John Priestman & Co., Ashfield Mills, met the party, and heads of departments showed the members all the various processes which were dealt with in the mill—beginning with an explanation and inspection of the "tops and noils," they were shown the work done by the spinning frame, the weaving loom, and so right through to the finished cloth.

Time would not permit of the party seeing all they would have liked to have seen, so it was with mixed feelings that tea was taken at the Midland Hotel, after which the visit was completed by the return drive of some ten miles back to Leeds.

VISIT "D."—TEMPLENEWSAM AND MONTAGUE BURTON'S FACTORY

What is there so joyous in getting into a char-a-banc! At any rate our party were joyous and happy when we started on Visit D! In the coach were one or two "hardy annuals" like ourselves, Hastwell Grayson and the MacLarens. We started under the supervision of Mr. Baker, with Captain Hickson and Harold Conolly as guides, who in stentorian voice told us of all the important places we were passing. Along the Headrow, where Sir Reginald Blomfield's elevations were pointed out to us, by Quarry Hill, a network of steel for the new flats, the rag and bone market, past rows and rows of back-to-back houses ("Oh, Leeds!"), and so to the first stop, Burton's factory, where we were graciously received by the heads and the architect. We were led round in groups of seven. Our conductress, a charming girl who walked like a queen, pointed out to us the whole procedure of suit making. We saw all kinds and descriptions of suits in all descriptions of cloth, for fat men, lean men, average men, tall men and short men. There are 9,500 workpeople and 6,000 suits are made a day. It is staggering to see this wonderful organisation, the testing, marking, cutting-out, stitching, sewing, button-holing, buttons which were put on dozens a minute, seaming, pressing, sorting, parcelling, delivering. The efficiency of its welfare section canteen, kitchens, rest rooms, dentistry and first aid was impressive, which may in part be the reason why the girls, who are in greatest numbers—in fact, literally "acres" of them—all seemed so happy.

At the banquet the next night we all wanted a peep at Sir Montague whose brain evolved and developed such a marvellous organisation.

Templenewsam, the next point in the trip, is a forbidding and dignified mansion. Mr. Paul Dare, the capable and learned keeper, told us all about the different periods in which it was built, burnt and restored, but I must admit being intrigued most with the balustrade with letters instead of balusters, "All glory and praise given to God the Father," the letters originally in stone, renewed in wood and now in metal.

We were taken through the building by Mr. Dare (the stragglers pushed on by Mr. Percy Robinson) through beautiful suites and the Great Hall, a Jacobean restoration of 1780, into the room where Darnley was born. (Darnley married Mary Queen of Scots and their child was our James I.) Old paintings, Chinese wallpapers, Flemish tapestry, 16th-century historical beds, grand apartments, all intensely interesting; the new staircase, the long room and chapel, all very beautiful. I said a little prayer of thanks that I was not born great to have to live in such grand surroundings.

Templenewsam is haunted. A member of our party had talked to a lady who has really and truly seen the ghost. A butler who once killed a maid comes slowly down the grand staircase clad in old-world butler's uniform, he stops on the bottom tread to listen to distant music, and disappointingly disappears before he performs any pleasant butlering.

The grounds of Templenewsam suggest the work of Capability Brown.

Lastly, a sumptuous tea and a graceful speech of thanks, proposed by Mr. James R. Adamson to Mr. and Mrs. Dare and to all who had helped.

And so home, all rather tired, but pleased and in great expectation for the reception and hospitality at night to be given by the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

T. R. MILBURN [F.]

VISIT "E."—THE RING ROAD AND YORKSHIRE COPPER WORKS

Visits to industrial undertakings supplying the building industry are always interesting to architects. The one to the Yorkshire Copper Works was no exception. We were ushered into a building so enormous that the extremities were hidden behind a forest of stanchions. These stanchions varied from cast iron to welded steel, seeming to indicate that the building merely grew as the business expanded. In the distance was a glow of furnaces from which emerged great golden-coloured billets of copper. These submitted to various slimming processes until they emerged as thin-walled tubes varying in diameter from more than a foot to fractions of an inch. Groups of overalled men and women clustered about long flat-bed machines in which tube after tube was forced through dies. Overhead, little electric locomotive cranes busily transported bundles of tubes from place to place, the youthful drivers hooting Klaxon horns to warn those standing below. The noise was tremendous and not lessened by a floor of cast iron plates.

The exhibition hall of the works, besides being a relief to our ears, allowed us to examine specimens of the tube at leisure. Some of us tried our hands at making soldered joints with the patent fittings, and were duly impressed with the simplicity of the task by seeing our work immediately withstanding heavy water pressures in a testing machine. Completing the circuit of the hall we came upon a well-stocked

tea-table and a bar. Here we sat awhile with our pleasant hosts, who were thanked on our behalf by Mr. T. E. Scott. Then we climbed into the coaches again, each of us carrying a small copper ashtray, suitably inscribed, as a memento of an interesting visit.

The day had turned dull and rain threatened as, passing the Quarry Hill flats we went along York Road towards the Gipton and Seacroft housing estates. Presently the road became double-tracked, with a central tramway, typical of the commonsense planning by which the extensions of the city are being controlled. Along the Ring Road, which when complete will encircle the city, we saw again and again examples of the care for amenity which ought to distinguish new road-making, and so rarely does. We were told that the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act had been applied to as much of the road as possible, the reserved strips of land being either planted with shrubs and trees or reserved as public open space. At Otley Road we saw a good example of the preservation of trees in central islands.

Not the least interesting feature of the road is that it links together the majority of the Corporation's housing estates, parks and playing fields. It is not uniformly constructed throughout, some of it being built with a central single track and some with the first portion of a double track. This we were told was because the Ministry of Transport changed their requirements after some of the single track road was built; all new and future construction is double track.

Our conference handbooks informed us that the city of Leeds have already spent £600,000 on the Ring Road and the Five Years' Programme for roads, started in 1935, includes a further expenditure on it of £130,000. Of a total length of 29.5 miles, 16.7 miles have been constructed. Anyone who imagines that a ring road round an industrial city must of necessity be ugly should visit the Leeds example. He will find that most of it goes through beautiful country and that its beauty has been enhanced.

E. L. B.

Conference Tours on Friday, 25 June

TOUR NO. 1.—WHARFEDALE

A little late in leaving Leeds—why do some folk appear to delight in keeping others waiting, thereby causing the time table or, as the Americans call it, "Skedule" to fall to pieces?

After a short run through Moortown housing area—and why are the front doors so narrow?—we soon reached Harewood with its pleasant village of real West Riding cottages. A block of cottages recently erected is an excellent example of what cottages should be. Hereabouts the sun began to shine and continued to do so practically for the whole of the day. The greyiness of Thursday disappeared and at last the sky became visible.

We were soon in Wharfedale, passing the village of Arthington and the small town of Otley, the latter not very attractive, and on to Ilkley. During the run Mr. Easdale kept up a running commentary of the various buildings and points of interest.

At Ilkley we made for Heathcote, a notable residence built by Sir Edwin Lutyens about twenty-five years ago. What a delightful house—not large but so arranged as to give an air of spaciousness, exquisite and aristocratic in every detail; but I had the feeling that it was not a house to live in and feel at home; there was something of the public building on a small scale about it. It made me feel that one must always be dressed immaculately even for breakfast, that one could not stroll about the entertaining rooms in one's slippers, and that a rough suit of plus fours would be decidedly *outré*. In a house of the design and finish of Heathcote one should be on the very best behaviour.

After Heathcote we made for Bolton Abbey, where we were met by Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, who explained to us the poetic but doubtful history of the foundation of the abbey. Many of us wished for more time to explore the ruins and to take a walk down to the river, but our late start compelled us to hurry to the charabanc and make for Burnstall and luncheon at the village hostelry—a good lunch which everyone appeared to enjoy.

After lunch we made for Parcevall Hall, but owing to wrong directions having been given to our driver, and our guides not being able to guide us, we lost our way and also another quarter of an hour. Still, we were well repaid for the time



Professor Hamilton Thompson (in centre, facing camera) and Tour No. 1 at Bolton Abbey

spent with Sir William Milner, the owner and architect of the renovations and additions, who explained to us all he had done and vividly conveyed the excitement he experienced when discovering old fireplaces, windows, bakehouses, etc. Indeed, all of us architects envied him, yet rejoiced that a building of that date had got into the right hands for care and renovation.

Heathcote and Parcevall Hall provided as remarkable a contrast as one could wish. The one modern, classical, neat, perfect, hard. The other with all the native warmth and humanity that seems characteristic of 14th and 15th century work. What a different feeling one gets, here at Parcevall! I felt at home, everything called one to live and be oneself, to fit in with the surrounding house, the unobtrusively formalised garden near the house, and the delightful "natural" rock gardens up the hill behind. The conference handbook called the gardens a veritable paradise, and so they are.

Our tour was drawing to a close and we were an hour late, so the driver "stepped on the gas" and we made for Harrogate as quickly as possible for welcome tea at the Grand Hotel.

A tribute must be paid to Mr. Paxton for his splendid organisation and to Mr. Easdale for his information on all passing features of the countryside and buildings, and to Professor Thompson for his description of Bolton Abbey.

T. TALIESIN REES [F.]

TOUR NO. 2.—FOUNTAINS ABBEY

Mr. G. H. Burnett took the roll call, and we settled down in the cushioned seats of the motor coach, feeling a little tired after two receptions and a dance. The brightness of the morning soon dispersed any cloudy feeling, and there was magic even in the names of Ripon and Fountains which had drawn us together.

Leaving the grimy city, we were rapidly transported to a charming countryside, looking its best in the June sunshine. There was neither long, dwindling ribbon development, petrol pumps, nor incongruous advertisements to mar the scene. The hayfields and arable land, with many rivers—the Aire, Wharfe, Ure, and Nidd—the grey cottages with Yorkshire stone slab roofs, all combined to form a striking contrast to the industrial centre we had so suddenly left behind.

The villages and churches, the archaeology and legends of the district were described in passing by Mr. Burnett, and added greatly to the interest of the journey. He seemed to know every corner of the whole district.

We travelled the Great North Road with its spectres of famous and infamous men who had passed and gone. The great stretch of the Yorkshire plain and the distant view of Ripon Minster unfolded like a moving picture as we sped along at 35 m.p.h.

At Ripon Mr. N. Culley led us to the west front of the minster with its triple doorways all opening into the nave. With the aid of plans which he had thoughtfully prepared he described its architectural history, and we followed the sequence of events from A.D. 661 to the time of Scott's restoration. On to this stage—so perfectly set for an architectural address—the Very Rev. the Dean of Ripon appeared, and welcomed us with exquisite wit and good humour, which was an inspiration to us all. One felt that a congregation was to be envied that had the joy of listening to an octogenarian so young and gay in spirit.

The party divided into two groups, one with Mr. Culley, and the other guided by the Verger (Mr. Graham), who proved an enthusiastic antiquary, well versed in the history of the fabric. We explored the tiny crypt, and viewed the exterior from all angles.

In the bright sunny dining room of the Spa Hotel we

lunched, and peeped at the lawns and masses of lupins. There were no speeches, thanks to Mr. G. W. Atkinson, who presided.

Then on to Studley, where, after hectic telephone messages, the coach was permitted to enter the narrow gate and straight drive that led to the Memorial Church.

It was a day of contrasts, and none more so than the change from this garish interior to the spacious green lawns and placid pools in the valley approaching Fountains Abbey. There was not one jarring note of sound or colour in this delightful spot.

Mr. Culley again created the right atmosphere for us to appreciate the beauties of the abbey, and with the aid of his plans and lucid description hurried us through the centuries, and explained how this self-contained community originated and built this vast monastery. Mr. Nott, who is in charge of the fabric, came to Mr. Culley's rescue when his voice almost failed from over-strain. He followed up the tour of the abbey by showing us the Jacobean Hall and furnishings. Time was all too short, and we regretfully left this secluded dale to continue our journey.

A halt was made at Knaresborough to see the view from the Castle Keep. It is dramatic and unforgettable. Under the precipice the Nidd flows between wooded banks with the grey houses rising in tiers up the steep slope on one side and an uncommonly good railway bridge crosses the stream. It is so fine a view that it may seem hypocritical to ask why they have a castellated gasometer in the background, and an elevated water tank on the distant skyline!

Tea awaited us at Harrogate Golf Club House, but remembering there was a banquet to follow we did not do it the justice it deserved.

The coach sped through sophisticated Harrogate, past the grey cottages and Adams gate-houses at Harewood, back to headquarters.

We all felt deeply indebted to Mr. Culley, who had done so much laborious work, and to Mr. Burnett for his descriptive touches to a memorable tour.

J. C. ROBINSON [F.]

TOUR NO. 3.—THE BRONTË COUNTRY AND PENNINE MOORS

Tour No. 3 was not the popular favourite, but it proved as delightful and interesting as members of the Conference have learnt to expect such expeditions to be.

We left Leeds through streets of back-to-back houses, past Kirkstall Abbey in its pleasant grounds, along the Aire Valley, with views of the clustered factories by the river, through Shipley and Saltaire, where the neat rows of low houses, behind still neater garden plots, testify that here was the first "garden city," past Bingley, and not an Airedale dog announced his native home, to Riddlesden.

Here we were met by our guide in chief, Mr. Fox, and we alighted to find an island of the past almost swamped by the present, but thanks to the generosity of Messrs. J. J. & W. A. Brigg not quite submerged, for Riddlesden Hall is now under the efficient care of the National Trust. As you turn in from the road the new houses on the right gaze vacantly across the pond at the magnificent barn, with its solid walls and curious roof timbering. The 17th-century hall itself is set on a knoll overlooking the Aire, sheltered by tall beeches, and commands views that are still attractive. The big wheel window over

the porch and the black and massive stonework strike unfamiliarly to one used to West Country building, and within the house the contrast is even more marked, as in several rooms the window occupies the entire length of one wall, and this gives a pleasant and light interior, in spite of the thickness of the individual mullions.

After this we began the climb to Haworth, a sombre, grey village perched on the steepest of hillsides, and strongly reminiscent of the small Italian hilltop towns, St. Gimignano in particular. Here we were under the guidance of Mr. Bradley, who had all possible information about the famous family at his finger-tips, and were shown the comparatively modern church; only the tower remains of the older building. Close by the parsonage has unexpectedly the appearance of a solid suburban villa; it now houses a most interesting and well-kept museum, full of countless relics of the Brontë family, evidence of their untiring energy with pen and pencil, small manuscript magazines scarcely the size of a stamp book, yet perfectly legible, and the very horsehair sofa on which Emily breathed her last!

Our road now lay for several miles across bare uplands, all green and grey, with patches of snow-white cotton grass. To the north and west were fold upon fold of blue-grey hills. One of our guides had said, as we left Leeds in bright sunshine, that the Pennine country looked best in rain, and here it was under a grey, lowering sky, bare and windswept, yet with a curiously smooth outline. We could just see into the lovely wooded valley of Hardcastle Crag, which Halifax covets for its water supply, and across to the village of Heptonstall, before we came down to Hebden Bridge for lunch. (I wonder did all the tours eat, as we did, Yorkshire pudding served in its native fashion?) After this, we sought, and found, on foot, the old hump-backed pack-horse bridge which gives the town its name.

Then on again in the coach up the tree-covered Cragg Vale, and out on to another stretch of Pennine moor, still grey and green. We came upon one of the lake reservoirs, close to the Lancashire boundary, then turned east, and soon wished we had time to explore the Roman road and bridge visible in the valley.

We passed by Barkisland Hall, of the same period as Riddlesden, and likewise possessing a wheel window, then through two or three small manufacturing towns to Kirkless. Here we were welcomed at the Hall by Sir George Armytage, who most kindly showed us over his house, and so enabled us to speculate by what means the remarkable staircase holds itself up, and also to see the handsome carved screen that had been discovered behind a plaster wall, and to admire the well-proportioned rooms, fine furniture, and lovely views from the wide windows. He then led us through the grounds to the old Priory, the gatehouse of which still stands, with its moulded timbers and odd corner windows, and from the upper room pointed out the spinney in which Robin Hood's last arrow fell to earth, and so marked the site for his grave.

After a short drive we found ourselves at the Old Cock Inn, Halifax, beside a sumptuous tea spread out for us in the old panelled room, and being chidden by the hostess for our brief stay. Here we reluctantly parted with two of our guides, Mr. Fox and Mr. Maddocks, who had done so much to make the day an enjoyable one, and drove on, not forgetting their injunction to look back at the pencil-like chimneys of the town from the top of the rise. We regretted having to miss the old

Cloth Hall of Halifax, and would have braved the scents of the Fish Market, its present use, if time had permitted. But a Conference Banquet waits for no man, and we returned to Leeds by a road surprisingly rural, and decided, as no doubt the other tours did in their turn, that this particular one was the best of all the attractive outings arranged by our kindly Yorkshire hosts.

A. FAREWELL JONES [A.]

TOUR NO. 5.¹—TO THE YORKSHIRE DALES AND CASTLES

The choice of a tour, from the attractive selection on the R.I.B.A. programme, for Friday 25 June was, for most of us, just like taking a dip in "The Bran Tub". What would come out? Well, Yorkshire Dales and Castles was decidedly a lucky pick for our party numbering about sixty people.

It was a fine day, and when all had assembled we set out only twenty-five minutes behind our schedule!

Soon we passed by Mr. G. W. Atkinson's delightful "Garden of Rest", with its sundial bearing this quaint inscription on its base:

"Alone he stands among the flowers
And only counts the sunny hours.
Dull days for him do not exist,
The Brazen-faced old Optimist."

Then on through an attractive residential area with some new (not modern) stone houses, to be greeted with a burst of sunshine as we approached the countryside. Immediately, Mr. Victor Bain, our leader and guide (and now we hope and feel our friend for life), announced through his megaphone that he would open up the sunshine roof of the coach. This he promptly did—"The Brazen-faced old Optimist". In this, as in all his actions during the day, he was right. The roof remained open and the sun continued to shine.

Throughout the day Mr. Bain described features of interest as we passed through the very beautiful and typical English countryside, so much beloved by all who are truly British. Our attention was called to Harewood House, the home of the Princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood, with the castle ruins quite close to the highway. Then on through "Ilkla Moor" where any, or every, member of the party was invited to sing "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'At". But there was no response—it was too early in the day. Later Mr. Milburn gave me the complete words of this famous and most amusing song in Yorkshire dialect. If the reader should want a rollicking song for a jolly picnic let him get the words and tune. I feel sure the West Yorkshire Society of Architects will oblige anyone interested.

Passing through Harrogate we admired "The Stray," a famous open space with trees and cut lawns, but, as stipulated by a trust deed, with no flowers. Then on through Ripley, with its village cross and stocks, we came upon Ripon, with the sweet-flowing Ure, to West Tanfield. In this district the red poppies in the wheat fields, with copses of trees in the background, are reminiscent of parts of Flanders. After crossing the foot of the Yorkshire Dales we travelled by Watling Street, the old Roman highway, and now part of the Great North Road, to branch off again at Catterick Bridge, passing through nurseries ablaze with multi-coloured lupins, a beautiful sight, as the blooms were at their best.

We reached Richmond only ten minutes behind schedule, and after the party had inspected Richmond Castle under the guidance of a most explicit and courteous keeper we had an

excellent lunch at which we sampled the famous Wensleydale cheese.

Proceeding on our journey we noted the dry laminated stone walls which give a charming individuality to this part of Yorkshire. Up hill and down dale and on through Leyburn, we came at last into Wensleydale, with the majestic Pen Hill on our left. By the courtesy of Lord Bolton we visited Bolton Castle, a complete Norman stronghold, which was for a time the prison of Mary, Queen of Scots. The castle has been partially restored and is also interesting as it was besieged for some years in the 17th century by the Commonwealth forces, ultimately capitulating after a gallant defence.

On our return journey we were entertained at "The Cottage," Leyburn, by Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Milburn. All agreed that this delightful halt was one of the brightest spots of a very pleasant day and all of us admired this beautiful

garden and home. We wished to remain longer but our leader was fighting against time and so we pushed on through Masham. Here again the countryside was at its best. The fishermen in the River Ure and the haymakers picnicking amidst the new-mown hay made pretty pictures and lasting memories.

At Ripon we stopped again for tea. Here Mr. J. R. Adamson, in a short speech, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Milburn and Mr. Victor Bain and his leaders for their many kind actions and hospitality during the day.

In the midst of our enjoyment many had forgotten the conference banquet, which necessitated our hurrying back through much interesting country so as to complete our journey in time for the evening preparations.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of all our party, to thank sincerely all those who helped to give us a most enjoyable day.

PHILIP B. HUDSON [F.]



Harewood House

"Country Life" photo

Book Reviews

BRITAIN AND THE BEAST*

I recommend this book as a tonic to every jaded worker in the cause of rural preservation. Those who suffer, as I do, from the constant suppression of their natural feelings of resentment and indignation under the weight of responsibility will obtain a few hours of delicious relaxation as they turn these pages. The culminating point of my own perverse enjoyment was touched when I had finished reading Mr. A. G. Street's weighty and thoughtful presentation of "The Countryman's View," and found facing me, on the opposite page, the photograph of "Old and New in North Wales." For a brief period the self-imposed constriction of my heart was loosened.

But let me say at once that Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis has realised that there are two methods of approach to the solution of our difficulties, and has held the balance evenly between them. As typical of these different approaches quotations may be given, selected haphazard and taken out of their contexts, from two admirable articles. On page 72 Professor C. E. M. Joad says: "There are people, wherever there is water . . . lying in every attitude of undressed and inelegant squalor, grilling themselves, for all the world as if they were steaks, in the sun; there are tents in meadows and girls in pyjamas dancing beside them to the strains of the gramophone, while stinking disorderly dumps of tins, bags, and cartons bear witness to the tide of invasion for weeks after it has ebbed; there are fat girls in shorts, youths in gaudy ties and plus-fours, and a roadhouse round every corner and a café on top of every hill for their accommodation."

On p. 197 Mr. John Gloag says: "I am not becoming tolerant of muddle and disorder; but I begin to understand that muddle and disorder can never be cured by cutting across the little precious by-ways and queer beckoning lanes and romantic alleys of national character. The Englishman is always having sour experiments thrust upon him. His pleasures are curbed; his life is interfered with in little pettifogging ways; tyranny is exercised in uneven and obsolete regulations; and now and again Authority wakes up to the hopelessness of trying to suppress the natural taste of the people whose will has endowed it with power to govern."

It is not, therefore, only the volcanic energy (to which the pioneering work of rural preservation owes so much) which Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis has contributed or inspired in some other contributors to this beautifully

illustrated book which, if, as it should, it gets into the hands of every district councillor in England, will cause it to be remembered in the future as an epoch-making publication.

Of the depths of the roots of the national taste, to which Mr. Gloag refers, Mr. H. W. Massingham reminds us with an authority which we all recognise and with that rare command of the English language which never fails him. It is significant that his article is preceded by that of Mr. J. M. Keynes, with a really great constructive proposal, which he assures us is financially practicable, and followed by a contribution from Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith, who, with the skill and knowledge to be expected from the authoress of *The Ploughman's Progress*, exposes the destructive tendencies of economic forces running riot in the south-east. Sir William Beach Thomas, with a more buoyant hopefulness, and a timely reminder of the great achievements of the builders of the garden cities, tells a similar story about the home counties.

Of what I may call the constructive articles (alas! that there is none dealing with architecture as one of the first causes), two, to my mind, are outstanding. Mr. Geoffrey Bounphrey gives a practical application to his conclusion: "It may sound paradoxical, but I am convinced that the only way to save the country is by making the towns fit to live in." And Lord Howard of Penrith provides a quite invaluable résumé of what is being done in three other countries; this should be marked, learned and inwardly digested by every member of the British Parliament.

The volume closes with an account of the wonderful work of the National Trust now being carried on under Mr. G. M. Trevelyan, and a statement as to the objects of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, yearly growing in strength under the guidance of Lord Crawford and Sir Guy Dawber. The latter body provides the only hope I can see of bringing together in a united front the forces represented by these twenty-six contributors and their ten sponsors. We want more men like Mr. John Moore working with us. He contributes four delightfully written pages on "The Cotswolds," developing, perhaps unconsciously, Kipling's theme, "Your kept cock-pheasant keep you?" and assures us that the state of things in his beautiful part of the Cotswolds is no more than precarious. The other parts, where the C.P.R.E. has been struggling desperately for ten years—and slowly winning—he flew over in a Moth and saw "the tracks of the beast very clearly from the air . . . even in places where I had not believed I should find it." The C.P.R.E.,

* *Britain and the Beast*. Ed. by Clough Williams-Ellis. 8vo. 20 + 322 pp. London: Dent, 1937. 10s. 6d.

I am convinced, from a not thoughtless experience, offers the only safe landing place for those who, knowing the present danger, are prepared to come down to earth and earn the priceless reward that England still gives to those who work, as well as to those who think, for her.

Those of us who still look to the State for salvation, under

a non-totalitarian system of government, agree without reserve in Professor Patrick Abercrombie's conclusion that the first requirement is "common ground of action arranged at headquarters between the Ministries of Health, Transport and Agriculture and the Board of Trade."

FABIAN WARE [*Hon. A.*]

DESIGNER—MAKER—USER*

Dr. Pevsner's inquiry into industrial art in England is an essential piece of reading matter for any designer. Much of its value is derived from an elaborate (but never tedious) examination of the conditions under which the industrial designer operates and the taste of the ultimate consumer. It has 24 half-tone plates and 234 pages; it lacks an index; and the typography is unkind to the eyes, for the line is a trifle too long for comfortable reading, and one wonders why that style was chosen, particularly as the book is printed on art paper. There are two parts: I, Data and II, Conclusions.

The author carried out investigations among producers of metalwork, electric and gas fittings, furniture, radio cabinets, carpets, furnishing fabrics and dress materials, wallpapers, pottery, glass, plastic mouldings, silver and electro-plate, leather goods, motor-cars, jewellery, packaging and printing. Out of this part of the enquiry one discovery stands shoulder-high above sordid revelations of muddle and timid experiment: it appears on the page headed: "Why are expensive fittings and fires badly designed?" and of the manufacturers of such equipment it is said: "Directly they feel that they can insist on Art, their taste goes astray." (P. 32.)

This book is enriched with descriptive flashes of such lucidity that it may well take its place not only as one of the most readable works on design in industry but as the most authoritative, for it is based on research, not only in various departments of industry but among the educational and propaganda organisations that have been struggling for years to improve standards of design. Here is one of Dr. Pevsner's flashes: "The modern movement means (thank heaven!) the superiority of architecture over the fine arts." (P. 112.) Incidentally, the superiority of design in industries where manufacturers have had the wit to consult architects emerges vividly from both text and illustrations. The whole book strengthens the case for a more extensive use of the architect in industry; and, section

by section, it discloses both the difficulties and the possibilities that await architects who are prepared to accept the wide and promising responsibilities of association with industrial production. On the page headed "the architect as the most promising designer" (199), the author states: "A designer, like an architect, is not a free artist. Both must believe in the moral value of serving—serving clearly defined purposes in their individual works and serving the community in the whole of their activity. In fact, the use of architects as designers has yielded excellent results in almost all the cases which I have encountered or of which I know."

Again, on an earlier page (190), the case for the architect is put with force and economy: "Every architect is . . . dependent on by-laws and on the standard sizes of bricks, window panes, etc. His artistic genius comes out in reconciling awkward circumstances and creating out of them, and in spite of them, a new and personal unity. It is one of the most brilliant conceptions in Herbert Read's book, which I have to quote so frequently, that he stresses the fundamental identity of the architect's and the designer's task in the Machine Age." To other books on this controversial subject of industrial art Dr. Pevsner is more than generous; but his courteous acknowledgments to most of the stuff that has found its way into print does not alter the fact that, with the exception of Herbert Read's *Art in Industry*, his own scholarly and comprehensive survey of the problem renders previous works obsolete.

His conclusions in Part II are constructive and some original thinking has been compressed into a few paragraphs on the subject of art education. His sections on "the aesthetic value of cheap and expensive articles" and "the taste of the public" should be read and re-read and taken to heart, if not learned by heart, by designers. The illustrations that accompany the text are well chosen: some are cautionary, many are encouraging. Dr. Pevsner has given us that rare thing: an important work of reference that is also a most stimulating book.

JOHN GLOAG [*Hon. A.*]

* *Industrial Art in England.* By Nikolaus Pevsner. 3vo. 234 pp. Cambridge University Press. 1937. 16s.

DESIGN IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

DESIGN: A TREATISE ON THE DISCOVERY OF FORM. By Percy E. Nobbs, M.A.(Edn.), R.C.A. 8vo, ix + 412 pp. Oxford University Press. 1937. 30s.

One would like to be as receptive as possible to any book by Professor Nobbs. He has essayed to write on design, a difficult thing to do. His approach is apologetic, his method dogmatic—but not aggressively so—and his treatment as comprehensive as anyone would wish. There are four main sections, each divided into seven sub-sections, and the subject matter ranges from dress to town planning. The opening sentences state tersely "This is not a text-book. It is intended to serve as a helpful sidelight for those who have occasion to read text-books in connection with their studies of the arts." Let us hope that it may so serve, and even in these hurrying days there are some signs that "sidelights" are being given attention.

The great range of the book will be sensed if we take a few headings at random (main ones in roman type). In the first part ("The Sciences of Art") *Croce's Aesthetic*, *Santaviana, Marshall, Taste, The Physical Basis of Light, Phenomena of Colour, Optical Illusions, The Realization of Form*. In the second part ("Theories of Art"), *Scale, The Astrology of Art, The Canons, Proportion in Design, Corrections and Refinements, The Purpose of Ornament, Glassware, Beasts in Stone, Chairs*. In the third part ("Aesthetic Phenomena"), *Apparel, Swords, Pottery, Wood, Building Stone* [and other materials], *Elements of the Plan, Organic Planning, Town Planning*. In the fourth part ("Design and Artistry"), *Structural and Economic Analysis* [with three pages of tables that would delight the heart of a rating surveyor], *Architectural Composition, The Elaboration of Detail, The Graphic Arts, Sculpture*.

To come to hard facts, or hard practice, there is little in the first part that the thoughtful architect has not already discovered for himself; but if we can do without the "short-billed pigeons" on p. 104, it is refreshing to read (p. 100) "without the support of its ["Church Warden" Gothic] apparently vain and inept repetitions Liverpool Cathedral could not have proved the success it has."

In the second part the architectural student will find himself in deeper water. There is a great deal in the lengthy discourse on "scale" which is interesting and instructive, particularly in sub-section 6—*Interaction of Scale and Proportion*. The statement (p. 119) that "The rule of [Greek] column spacing appears to have been one diameter plus one cubit apart for temples of about the size of the Parthenon, and for the smaller ones," merits careful consideration, as does the (probably more certain) view that the Greeks lacked a true sense of scale. On pp. 125-129 there are penetrating analyses of Vitruvius and the Later Academicians (Serlio, etc.). Professor Nobbs has no use for what he calls "The Proportional Fallacy," but he admits (p. 151) that the Palazzo Farnese has a "proportional secret" as well as a quality, and "that the secret and the quality have a good deal to do with each other." The author's real and important conclusion, however, follows in what he says about the "dominant proportional ratio" in any given building. The concluding sub-sections, on "Corrections and Refinements" and "Orna-

ment," are very fully dealt with. Altogether, this is a valuable part.

Lack of space prevents more than a bare reference to the two concluding parts of the book, which are mostly architectonic, and (except for the excursion into sculpture at the end) deal with the major problems that beset the architect in attempting various kinds of solutions. The conclusion we come to is that this is a weighty book, not to be undertaken lightly, in any part of which the architect or art worker can find both entertainment and instruction. Whether or not, in these days of highly specialised and breathlessly progressive data on all the scientific aspects of architectural design, it will be able to hold its own as a reference book of repute, remains to be seen. An unkind critic might say that it is top-heavy. Without going so far as this, I have a secret conviction that a condensed version, cutting out a lot of general material, would secure more places on architectural bookshelves, but the book should certainly be obtained by every school of architecture. A word should be said about the 177 illustrations, all text figures in black and white (except one colour plate), competently done, as we should expect. There are three indices, and though there is no subject index the contents at the beginning are so complete that the matter can be referred to easily.

THEODORE FYFE [F.]

WHY EMPLOY AN ARCHITECT?

Small Houses, £500-£2,000. Edited by H. Myles Wright, M.A. [A.]. 4to. 112 pp. London: Architectural Press. 1937. 7s. 6d.

Almost every architect has, sometime or another, been challenged by an aggressive layman to state the case for the employment of architects. It seems quite obvious to many people that the fee which an architect charges, since it is nominally an extra to the bare cost of building, must represent a luxury, and that the astute layman who knows what's what can do without professional help in choosing, designing and building his house. As a race architects are poor advocates, and most of us when tackled in this way must have realised how ineffectual our most earnest protestations are, how clearly in the layman's ears they are the natural protestations of self-interest. Do not the mathematics of the business disprove all the architect's arguments that his services are essential to good building and not merely a luxury? If the prospective housebuilder has £1,000 to spend on his house, either, he will conclude, all his £1,000 goes in the building, or he will have only £900-and-a-bit to spend on the building and waste the odd sum on professional fees, or he will have to spend the fee as an extra on the top of his £1,000. Nothing short of unhappy experience, and not even that, will convince many laymen that they are wrong.

What ordinary practising architects cannot do for themselves Mr. Myles Wright has done admirably for them. His book is not just one of the many admirable picture books of contemporary houses: the pictures are there in profusion, and assisted by well-compacted descriptions tell their own story of contemporary developments and the various plan types and styles which may properly be considered within the range of good contemporary house building. The most important feature of the book, from the architect's point of view, is the short clearly written introduction. In about

thirteen pages Mr. Wright has surveyed post-war housing developments, the good effects as well as the bad effects of the boom, the reasons for the domination of the speculative builder, and the causes of the peculiar features of speculatively built houses; from all this he analyses the client's problem, the galaxy of desires, ambitions and needs which condition his choice, and finally states directly and persuasively what the architect does and why his service is not a luxury and illustrates his arguments by almost a hundred pages of pictures.

This is, in fact, the book for the architect who builds small houses to give to his prospective clients to assure that there will be no backsliding and to distribute by whatever subtle means he can devise among the kind of people who would normally not think of going to an architect at all. Individual architects or architects collectively in their local societies should make certain that copies are in all local public libraries,

clubmen should give them to their clubs, nephews to their uncles and aunts.

The greater part of this review has been spent in generalisation, and there is little space left for discussion of Mr. Wright's argument or of the merits of the houses he has chosen for his illustrations. The argument is clearly reasoned and broad-minded. Although in so short a text it is clearly impossible for the author to state every argument or to get to rock bottom in those arguments he does state he has given enough and given it in a sufficiently lively way to please the most critical even if they don't always agree with every word. The pictures are of houses costing between £285 and £2,500 (the majority are between £500 and £2,000), and illustrate "each of the principal directions in which architects are trying at present to find the perfect smaller house." All "styles" are represented and most forms of construction.

SOME TECHNICAL BOOKS

CORROSION OF IRON AND STEEL

METALLIC CORROSION PASSIVITY AND PROTECTION, by Ulick R. Evans. Published by Edward Arnold & Co. Price 45s.

THE PRESERVATION OF IRON AND STEEL BY MEANS OF PAINT, by L. A. Jordan and L. Whitty. Published by the Paint Research Station. Price 2s. 6d.

FOURTH REPORT OF THE CORROSION COMMITTEE. Published by the Iron and Steel Institute. Price 16s.

Increase in the use of iron and steel for both structural work and trim in the building trade has not as yet produced a single final answer to the problem of its protection from corrosion. Indeed, it has mainly served to draw still more attention to the difficulties, particularly since such progress as has been made generally is only in limited fields. Galvanising, various platings, and the use of non-rusting alloys are all excellent, but for technical or economic reasons can only be applied to a few of the purposes for which steel is now used. Further, some improvements, such as the addition of small quantities of copper to steel, while giving increased corrosion resistance, is being taken up very slowly in this country compared with, for instance, North America.

The literature on the subject is vast. There are even several widely held, although somewhat contradictory, theories as to the mechanism of the corrosion phenomena themselves. The various suggested surface treatments are so numerous as to be almost impossible to list, and many are supported by test reports, authentic or otherwise, which appear hopelessly contradictory.

Perhaps this appears to be an unduly gloomy view of the position to those specialists working constantly on the problem, but to an architect who has recently had to make a close study of the subject the confusion is very serious. Obviously, therefore, any publications which provide a complete survey of the present situation are of particular value to the user of steel, and it is for this reason that these three books of very different character are grouped together for review.

The first, by Dr. Ulick R. Evans, of Cambridge, who is known throughout the world for his work on corrosion, is a thorough scientific survey of the phenomena and the present methods of protection, and will obviously be for many years the standard reference on the subject. For the architect in

normal practice it is probably too detailed and technical a survey to be of regular use, but to anyone who must study the matter in greater than normal detail, or who requires information on a particular point, it is essential.

The second is a small booklet published by the Paint Research Station, which sets out to be a simple survey of the existing theories of corrosion and the current methods of protection. It is a thoroughly practical publication likely to be of regular and direct use to architects. It deals with the theories of corrosion, preparation and pre-treatment of iron and steel, and the methods of protection by paint films.

For those who have insufficient time to read the whole of the work there is an interesting tabular summary at the end. In view of the fact that architects are required to be technical experts in some twenty or more trades, quite apart from their own main preoccupation of planning and designing, they cannot hope to keep abreast of the vast flood of technical literature with which they should be concerned, and this idea is one which might well be widely copied. The summarising is extremely well done, and the views expressed are much more definite and free from hedging clauses than is sometimes the case with reports from research organisations.

The third book is the latest of a series of publications by the Iron and Steel Institute, covering the work of the Corrosion Committee which has been going on for many years. Apart from surveys of literature, a great number of long period practical exposure tests were organised and reports of inspections of structures, ships, and so on are all quoted and commented upon. It differs from the two first publications, therefore, by taking more of the engineer's view of the subject and less of the laboratory view. Much of the evidence collected is quoted in full, and under these conditions some must appear contradictory or of little direct importance. For this reason the architect is unlikely to read it right through, but once again there is a short summary containing clearly stated advice.

So far as the conclusions of all three books are concerned, there is greater unanimity than might be expected. The copper-bearing steels offer increased resistance in normal exposures, the phosphorus types of pre-treatment are useful, but painting is still the principal safeguard, and traditional practice is upheld. Proper preparation and painting only when the surface is dry is insisted upon, and the value of

inhibitive primers is stressed. Of these, perhaps rather surprisingly in view of the recent flood of new materials and processes, the traditional red lead still remains the standard to which the others are compared, except for certain cases of exposure to sulphur fumes. If it is felt, despite all this work, that we have in fact gone back very much to where we started, it should be remembered that at any rate we now have independent and almost official endorsement for doing what in the past was often done only for want of any safe alternative.

J. K. W.

NOISE WITHOUT TEARS

"NOISE." By A. H. Davis, D.Sc. 8vo. x + 148 pp. London : Watts & Co. 1937. 2s. 6d.

Noise is the price that man pays for material progress. Labour-saving devices—machinery of all kinds : improved transport—the motor car, aeroplane, lifts : better communications—wireless : all these involve the production of noise, which may develop into a serious nuisance unless special precautions are taken to prevent this danger.

The problem of noise is not as new as is commonly supposed. The iron-shod wheels of horse transport running over the cobbled streets rendered the streets of 19th-century towns almost as noisy as they are to-day. While the noise of traffic at night in Rome during the days of the Roman Empire was such that all who could afford to do so were driven to live outside Rome in a country villa, as the letters of Pliny testify.

It is not that the noise problem is a new one that makes it acute today, but rather that noise to-day is of a different character, more mechanical in origin and more staccato in quality, and also that the nervous fatigue of modern life has rendered modern man less capable of suffering the impact on his senses.

In this handy volume Dr. Davis, the principal scientific officer in the Physics Department of the National Physical Laboratory, has set out succinctly the problem of noise, its nature, kinds, measurement and control. The treatment of the subject is simple and only sufficient technical data is given to enable the layman to appreciate the nature of sound and its propagation, the distinction between phons and decibels and the comparative loudness of well-known types of noise. Some illuminating figures are given of the qualitative and quantitative effects of noise upon the work of operatives of various kinds.

The chapter upon the location and suppression of noises shows how extensive the problem has become, embracing not only buildings, but aeroplanes, motor engines and exhausts, trams and trains.

The book deals broadly with the main principles involved in the exclusion and absorption of noises, particularly in the insulation of machines and in the construction of domestic party walls and floors.

Perhaps the greatest contribution which the author makes is to impress upon the reader the fact that the problem is essentially a social one. Very much noise that is suffered by the town dweller is quite needlessly caused by thoughtless people, and the irritation and nervous fatigue caused by certain noises is aggravated by the sufferer's knowledge that the noise is unnecessary.

The problem of noise must be tackled socially as well as physically. The solution of some noise problems, such as loud-speakers, is almost impossible without the goodwill and co-operation of the community. Dangerous lunatics are

segregated in padded cells : and persons who wish to produce such unnecessary noise must be made to understand that the community insists upon treating them similarly, that they must provide themselves with padded rooms and closed soundproof windows.

An Englishman's home is no longer his castle : his existence is at most a semi-detached one and more often than not he is flanked by neighbours, even if he is not actually surrounded by them in a block of flats. Such communal existence demands a highly developed civic sense and consideration for others.

E. H. B.

BUILDING PROCEDURE

BUILDING PROCEDURE. By Edgar Lucas, A.I.A.A. & S. Sm. 4to. 143 pp. London : Technical Press. 1937. 10s. 6d.

The author in his preface considers there is a lack of co-ordination in building works owing to the vague knowledge of building organisation and procedure and he sets out in his book to enlighten all connected with building in the many difficulties which beset the industry.

The book gives information to clients as well as builders and to clerks of works as well as architects and estate managers. An early chapter deals with the site and the necessary drawings to be made to arrive at the levels and contours, the nature of subsoils with suggestions as to their suitability.

A description is given of work done in the architects' and builders' offices.

Estimating is dealt with in three ways. Taking off quantities, group estimating by taking out rough quantities and cubing by measuring the cubic contents of a building and pricing at an amount per cubic foot. Suggested amounts are given for various buildings, but it would be unwise to take these too literally.

The clerk of works' duties are defined and report sheets, which it is suggested he should keep, are set out in detail. These would take up a considerable time in the office.

The setting out of a building is illustrated under "The Foreman's Duties" and the diagrams show very elementary principles governing the setting out of a building.

Specifications are touched upon and the author gives his opinions of the best methods to adopt.

There is a chapter on finance for the speculative builder and the estate manager has a short chapter dealing with his duties.

It will be observed that the book deals with many sides of the building trade and is, therefore, no doubt only intended to give a brief sketch of the various happenings during the erection of a building.

ARTHUR W. KENYON [F.]

MOTOR CAR SIZES

SCHEDULE OF SPECIFICATIONS AND PRICES OF PRIVATE CARS, APPLICABLE IN THE BRITISH ISLES ONLY. Spring issue, 1937. Foolscap. London : Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd. 1937. 2s. 6d.

The latest issue of the S.M.M.T. car specifications has been added to the Library. The information contained in it on car sizes, turning circles, etc., is of value to architects. The schedule can be obtained from 83 Pall Mall, London, and is a reference book which can usefully find a place on architects' shelves.

ENGLAND AND WALES

WALES

THE LAND OF WALES, by Eiluned and Peter Lewis. La. 80. Batsford. 1937. 7s. 6d.

In the normal meaning of the word this is not a guide to Wales, but in another sense it is one of the best guides to the understanding of a country and its people that I have come across at anything like the price.

Eiluned and Peter Lewis state their case very interestingly and pleasantly. In their early chapters an account is given of Wales from prehistoric times to the present day, and from this we may form a very clear idea of life and work in Wales before the introduction of the factory system. In an interesting chapter on the fortress towns we are informed that there are the remains of over a hundred major stone castles in Wales to-day, including a few which are still inhabited and one which is second only to Windsor in size in the British Isles.

In a later part of the book the industrial era is dealt with faithfully. We are told of the rise of a great industry in South Wales, of the present "depressed" conditions and of the struggle which is being made by the Industrial Development Council and other agencies to bring back prosperity.

Other chapters are devoted to "Religion in Wales," "Some Travellers in Wales" and "Sport," the part of the latter chapter dealing with fox-hunting, presumably by Peter Lewis, being written with considerable understanding. Welsh Rugby naturally comes in for special mention, but so far as I can discover the summer game, in which the Glamorgan players have been distinguishing themselves recently, is modestly dismissed with "and a little cricket."

In various parts of the book we are told something of the Welsh character: of the kindly, warm-hearted hospitality and the charm of manner, which I, as an Englishman living in Wales, gladly confirm, particularly the manifestations of these qualities which I have come across among those living in the poorest of circumstances.

We are also told something of the enthusiasm for and love of learning which have resulted in the National Museum of Wales, the National Library of Wales and the University of Wales with its colleges in Bangor, Aberystwyth, Swansea and Cardiff.

All thoughtful people will be glad to note the emphasis given to the need for "planning" in South Wales, while as architects we are naturally interested in the authors' references to recent building activities in that area. "Cardiff is one of the finest and pleasantest towns in Great Britain, worthy capital of a thriving and beautiful hinterland; Swansea is less fortunate in its layout, but even more successful in its Guildhall, while it is the gateway to the amazing land of Gower."

Speaking of illustrations reminds me that the book contains, in addition to useful maps on the end papers, some 130 reproductions of photographs, many of which are very beautiful, while all reach a high standard. I hope, however, that what I have already written makes it fully clear that the text is not merely a rough and ready way of more or less holding together a fine series of illustrations but that it is a particularly interesting and useful piece of work.

"The Land of Wales" is, in fact, in every way worthy of inclusion in Batsford's British Heritage series, which means, among other things, that it is remarkably good value for even and six.

W. S. PURCHON [F.]

TOWN AND VILLAGE OF ENGLAND

THE OLD TOWNS OF ENGLAND. By Clive Rouse. 8vo. 120 pp. + 129 plates. London: Batsford. 1936. 7s. 6d.

ENGLISH VILLAGE HOMES. By Sydney R. Jones. 8vo. 120 pp. + 136 plates. London: Batsford. 1936. 7s. 6d.

Here are two more of Messrs. Batsford's cross-sections of English country life, this time of the *Old Towns of England* and *Village Homes*. It is difficult not to be sentimental about the perfectly lovely buildings illustrated in them, and to wonder what is to become of them. Are they to fall into the mummifying hands of preservation societies, or be inhabited by escapist stockbrokers, who have as much to do with agriculture as Marie Antoinette? Or are they to be engulfed in the tide of building set free by the modern fluidity of transport, labour, power, and materials? It is a nasty problem; but here, at any rate, are the most beautiful records of them as they are to-day.

Mr. Clive Rouse divides his running commentary on the towns into four rough divisions—on the cathedral city; market and country towns; ports and harbours; and resorts and spas. These are prefaced by an excellent, short introduction on the complex growth of the country town. Mr. Sydney R. Jones describes the even more subtle complexions of the English village first historically, then generally, and then architecturally, and succeeds in giving that special sense of the interplay of scene and building which varies with every change from hill to dale and from chalk to clay or stone.

Everything, in fact, that has been said of other books in this British Heritage Series can be said of these: they are excellently produced, and there are lashings of good photographs and good indexes. But there is, perhaps, something a little tame about them—like a Verity edition of Shakespeare. Not only do they lack something of the blood and thunder, the nearness of death, both sudden and Black, the exigencies of a subsistence economy which characterised as much as anything else the *ancien régime* but also the lamp-posts, the advertisements, the meanness and jerry-building of the twentieth century; and they are as much a part of pre-industrial and present-day England as these roseate villages which remain.

J. H. L.

CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES

ENGLAND'S GREATER CHURCHES: A PICTORIAL SURVEY, with an Introduction by C. B. Nicolson. Sm. 4to. 64 pp. London: Batsford. 1937. 3s. 6d.

The great cathedrals and churches of England dominate their cities and the landscape round them and no less dominate the whole view of English architecture; so any publisher has ample excuse to give us a pictorial history book, particularly when it is done as well as it is done here. For the person who knows the buildings and their place in architectural history these photographs will be a splendid memento, for those who know little or nothing the photographs and Mr. Nicolson's notes will be an excellent introduction and incentive to learn more and, above all, to visit the places illustrated.

CARDIFF

CARDIFF CIVIC SOCIETY. *Third Annual Report, 1935-36.*

The Cardiff Civic Society since its foundation has gained steadily in strength. The Chairman, Mr. J. F. Rees, in his report refers to the wide variety of civic matters over which the Society has exercised some control and the various interesting ways in which the Society is propagating its message. A vigorous address given by Professor W. G. Holford to the Society at its annual meeting in 1936 is printed in the Report.

Review of Periodicals

Attempt is made in this review to refer to the more important articles in all the journals received by the Library. None of the journals mentioned are in the Loan Library, but the Librarian will be pleased to give information about price and where each journal can be obtained. Members can have photostat copies of particular articles made at their own cost on application to the Librarian.

Reprints of these reviews, printed on slips suitable for cutting up and mounting on cards, can be had from the Library. A subscription of 5s. covers a year's issues.

All the journals received in the Library (about 200) are indexed, reference being made to all important articles and illustrations so that subscribers can have a constantly expanding index to practically every type of building illustrated in the architectural journals of the world.

Members wishing to have reprints for the remainder of this volume can do so on payment of 1s. to the Librarian Editor.

It is hoped to print them on gummed paper as soon as a large enough number of members subscribe.

SCHOOLS

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 9 July. P. 51.

Junior School buildings, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, by Oswald P. Milne [F.].

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). 1937. 6 June. No. 28. P. 595.

Groupe scolaire, consisting of elementary and infant schools, in the Rue des Trois-Bornes, Paris.

ARCHITETTURA ITALIANA (TURIN). 1937. May. P. 127.

BYGGMÄSTAREN (STOCKHOLM). 1936. P. 345.

Girls' school, Stockholm, by Ahrbom & Zimdahl. Contains an interesting music room with a unique organ setting.

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 25 June and 2 July.

Premiated designs for Birmingham Technical Colleges. Ashley and Winton Newman, I.

MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

ARKKITEHTI. 1937. No. 5. P. 65.

Art museum at Tallinn, by Alvar Aalto.

MODERNE BAUFORMEN (STUTTART). 1937. July. P. 337.

A people at work. The Düsseldorf exhibition, including a model colony with communal buildings, 60 one-family houses and artists' houses and studios, as well as large pavilions, mostly by Emil Fahrenkamp.

LIBRARY

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 2 July. P. 8.

National Library of Wales, by S. K. Greenslade and Adams, Holden & Pearson [FF.].

INSTITUTIONS

BUILDING (LONDON). 1937. June. P. 244.

A Review of the not yet completed buildings of the League of Nations at Geneva.

ARCHITETTURA C.C.C.P. (MOSCOW). 1937. April. No. 4. P. 4.

Military academy, Moscow.

CIVIC

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 9 July. P. 43.

THE BUILDER. 1937. 2 July. P. 16.

New town hall and municipal offices, Hackney, by Lanchester and Lodge [FF.].

MEMORIAL

BAUMEISTER (MUNICH). 1937. June. No. 6. P. 201.

A German war memorial in Bitolj, Yugoslavia.

HOTEL

ARCHITECTURE ILLUSTRATED. 1937. June. P. 183.

"The Boars Head", Birmingham. An attractive public house in brick, by F. J. Osborne [A.].

OFFICES

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW. 1937. July. P. 11.

Gilbey House, Camden Town, the new building by Serge Chermayeff for W. A. Gilbey, Ltd. Illustrated very fully.

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 9 July. P. 57.

Friern Barnet Municipal Offices Competition. Designs by Sir John Brown and A. E. Henson, and others.

SHOPS

AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND ARCHITECTURE (NEW YORK). 1937. June. PP. 41 and 97.

Illustrations of stores and shops, with a special section on shop planning.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 79.

Department store warehouse, Washington, by Abbott, Merlet & Co. Extensive use of glass bricks with construction detail.

INDUSTRIAL

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (LONDON). 1937. June.

Special issue on industrial buildings. Reviews several recent factories and contains an article by Dr. Faber on planning.

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1937. 1 July. P. 18.

Offices and factory, Leicester, by Pick, Everard, Keay and Gimson.

ARKKITEHTI. 1937. No. 5. P. 75.

Reinforced concrete factory and store building, by Swedish Co-operative Society.

ABATTOIRS

CHANTIERS (ALGIERS). 1937. No. 6. P. 295.

New abattoirs at Bône, Constantine.

BULLETIN TECHNIQUE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE (LAUSANNE). 1937. 19 June. No. 13. P. 171.

Abattoir at Yverdon, competition designs.

TÉR ÉS FORMA (BUDAPEST). 1937. No. 6. P. 161.

Abattoir at Kispeszt.

TRANSPORT

ARKITEKT (ISTANBUL). 1937. No. 3. P. 74.

Competition designs and models for a maritime railway station, Istanbul.

KENTIKU ZASSI (TOKYO). 1937. May. No. 626. P. 702.
Railway station at Nogoya, Japan.

WELFARE AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTION OF MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ENGINEERS. 1937. 22 June. P. 1777.
Bedford Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, by C. H. Blakeway.

L'ARCHITECTURE (PARIS). 1937. May. No. 5. P. 147.
Municipal health centre at Sèvres, containing baths and washhouses, gymnasium, clinic and crèche.

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). 1937. 20 June. No. 30.
A working class washhouse and thermal treatment establishment at Vichy, by Charles Letrosne.

BAUMEISTER (MUNICH). 1937. June. No. 6. P. 192.
Children's Home in Penzberg.

BYGGMÅSTAREN (STOCKHOLM). 1937. No. 16.
Community centre on the seafront at Klampenborg, near Copenhagen. Besides the well-known bathing establishment, it includes a riding school, cinema, restaurant and residential buildings. A first-class piece of coastal development, by Arne Jacobsen.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND ARCHITECTURE (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 35.

Indian reservation buildings in the south-west, by Mayers, Murray and Phillip.

HOSPITALS

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1937. 24 June.
Special number on Hospitals.

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 25 June. P. 372.
Runwell Mental Hospital, by Elcock and Sutcliffe [FF.].

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1937. 1 July. P. 11.

THE BUILDER. 1937. 2 July. P. 25.

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 2 July. P. 25.

Designs for Nurses' Home, Macclesfield, by F. Gibberd.

CONSTRUCTION MODERNE (PARIS). 1937. 6 June. No. 28. P. 603.

Sanatorium for heliotherapy at Vallauris, by P. Souzy.
Contains a "revolving" block.

SPORTS BUILDINGS

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 111.

A 40-page section on planning and building for recreation. Sports buildings illustrated include a recreation centres, Ly Oscar Stonorov; covered tennis court at Beverly, Mass.; some interesting cabin shelters in State parks and the yacht club building at Burnham, Essex, by Joseph Emberton [F.].

THE ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. 1937. 1 July. P. 7.

THE BUILDER. 1937. 2 July. P. 21.

THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 2 July. P. 12.

Swimming Baths, Hackney. Designs by Phillips and H. Gibberd [A.A.].

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTION OF MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ENGINEERS. 1937. 22 June. P. 1835.

Larkwood open-air swimming pool, Chingford, Essex, by S. J. Hellier.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 66.

Theatre at Brooklyn, New York, by Ben Schlanger, 528 seats.

Also an open-air theatre in Havana, by Batista and Maza.

ARKHITEHTI. 1937. No. 5. P. 71.

A cinema, by Erik Bryggman. Excellent plan.

ARCHITECTURA C.C.C.P. (MOSCOW). 1937. May. No. 5. P. 17.

Several neo-classical designs for theatres.

FILM STUDIO

TÉR ÉS FORMA (BUDAPEST). 1937. No. 6. P. 155.

Film studios in Budapest.

RELIGIOUS

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA. 1937. June. P. 106.

St. James Church, Vancouver, by Adrian G. Scott [F.] and Sharp and Thompson.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 69.

Protestant church at Basle, Switzerland, by Egender and Burkhardt.

DOMESTIC

ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS. 1937. 25 June. P. 393.
Burbage House. Working-class flats, Shoreditch, by John Dower [A.]. Details are given of eleven types of soundproof floor which have been used experimentally.

BUILDING (LONDON). 1937. June. P. 227 and P. 241.
Progress in London's housing. A short review of some of the recent L.C.C. housing schemes.

An important article on the costs of flats and houses.

THE KEYSTONE. 1937. June. P. 11.

Housing Standards. The requirements of good housing. Article by J. Blanco White.

THE NATIONAL BUILDER. 1937. July. P. 3. Supplement.
Refrigeration in the house and flat, by H. A. J. Lamb [A.].

HET BOUWBEDRIJF (THE HAGUE). 1937. 11 June. P. 109.

A balconied tenement building, "Eendracht," at Rotterdam.

DE 8 EN OPBOUW (AMSTERDAM). 1937. P. 115.

Excellent modern terraced houses, with garages, in Amsterdam, by Van Tijen.

HISTORICAL

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW. 1937. July. P. 7.

The Last Act at the Pantheon. An article, by R. P. Ross Williamson, on James Wyatt's Oxford Street building now to be demolished.

GENERAL

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS. 1937. 18 June.
Article by Sir Raymond Unwin, comparing English and American methods of housing.

COUNTRY LIFE. 1937. 12 June. P. 665.

The Art of Pageantry, by Philip James.

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 53.

A Method of Procedure in Architectural Design. Article by Paul Nelson.

AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND ARCHITECTURE (NEW YORK). 1937. June. P. 59.

Boston: An architectural anthology.

Portfolio Inset:—Flèches.

BAUGILDE (BERLIN). 1937. May. Heft 14.

Planning for the comfort of the worker in industry: equipment, interior decoration and furniture for canteens and hostels.

Accessions to the Library

1936-1937-IX

Lists of all books, pamphlets, drawings and photographs presented to, or purchased by, the Library are published periodically. It is suggested that members who wish to be in close touch with the development of the Library should make a point of retaining these lists for reference.

Any notes which appear in the lists are published without prejudice to a further and more detailed criticism.

Books presented by publisher for review marked

Books purchased marked

**Books of which there is at least one copy in the Loan Library.*

ARCHITECTURE

MAROT (DANIEL)

L'Euvre de D— M— &c., original title, reprinted.—Nouveaux Liure d'Ornements, &c., original sectional title, reproduced.
2 vols. pfo. 12". Paris: Guérinet. ([? 1712]) n.d.
£1 10s. the 2. P.

Original ed. of 1712 is in the Library.

WASMUTH (GUNTHER), ed.

Wasmuths Lexikon der baukunst.

Vols. 1-4, & Vol. 5: Nachtrag [suppt.] A bis Z. 11½".
Berlin: Wasmuth. [1937.] £12 3s. the 5 volumes. P.

SOCIETIES

NORSKE ARKITEKTERS LANDSFOREBUND

Bygge handbok. 3 utgave. 1937.

1937.

HISTORY

GROSE (FRANCIS)

The Antiquities of England and Wales.

[1st ed.] Vol. i only. fo. London. 1773.
Presented by Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher [F.].

BYRON (ROBERT)

How we celebrate the Coronation. (A word to London's visitors, half-title sub-title.) [Demolition of London buildings.] (From Archl. Review, May.)
7¼". (iv) + 32 pp. Lond.: Archl. Press. 1937. 1s. R.

STEVENS (G. P.)

The Periclean entrance court of the Acropolis of Athens. (Athens: American School of Classical Studies at Athens.)
11½". ix + 78 pp. Camb., Mass.: Harvard U.P. 1936.

Presented by the Author [Hon. Corr. Mem.].

WEBB (GEOFFREY), writer

*Wren. (Great lives series, 78.)

7¼". 144 pp. Lond.: Duckworth. 1937. 2s. R. & P.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Rates and rateable values . . . 1936-37.

1937. 1s. R.

CRESWELL (W. T.)

*The Law of party-walls outside London. (From Journal of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, Feb., Mar.)

2 extracts in 1. 8½". [Lond.] 1936. R.
To Loan Library.

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION

British standard specifications:

No. 685. B— sequence of trade headings and specification items for building work.

pam. 8½". Lond. 1937. 2s. R.

LUCAS (EDGAR)

Building procedure in the office and on the job.

9¼". vii + 143 pp. Lond.: Technical Press.
1937. 10s. R.

ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
Register of registered architects.

"Volume four." 31 December 1936. 9¼". Lond.
[1937.] 2s. 6d. R.

REGISTER

Register of chartered surveyors, chartered land agents, and of auctioneers and estate agents. Published under the sanction of and comprising members of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, the Land Agents' Society, the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, the Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Landed Property Agents. 1937.

9¼". Lond.: Thos. Skinner. 1937. £1. R.

PLANNING

E. AND O. E., pseud.

*Planning. An annual notebook. 1937.

13¼". Lond.: Architect and Building News. 1937. 5s.
R. & P. (2.)

BUILDING TYPES

(CIVIL)

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: INFORMATION SECTION

L— of N—. Its secretariat and buildings [Geneva].

10¼" × 8¼". 32 pp. Geneva. 1936. 1s. 6d. P.

MALCOLM (C. A.)

Holyrood. (Historic buildings series.)

7¼". 158 pp. + pls. Lond.: Duckworth. 1937. 3s. 6d. P.

BLACKHAM (R. J.)

The Soul of the City. London's livery companies. &c.

8¼". xvi + 358 pp. + pls. Lond.: Sampson Low, Marston.
[1931.] (3s. 6d.) P. (remained.)

SOCIÉTÉ CENTRALE DES ARCHITECTES

L'Architecture.

*[Special issue: Chemins de fer.] (Nov.)

12". Paris. 1936. R. To Loan Library.

AIR MINISTRY

Licensing and classification of civil aerodromes. (Directorate of Civil Aviation.) (A.M. Pamphlet No. 55.)

3rd ed. 13". dupl. typescript. 1936. R.

With folding plan, Zoning requirements as applied to a specimen . . . aerodrome, 1937, inserted.

ARCHITECTURE D'AUJOURD'HUI

*[Special number: Aerodromes, &c.] (Sept.)

12½". Paris. 1936. (25 fr.) P. for Loan Library.

HOME OFFICE

Welfare pamphlets:

*No. 5. Ventilation of factories and workshops.

*3rd ed. pam. 8o. Lond.: H.M.S.O. 1937. 1s. P (2.)

HOME OFFICE

Welfare pamphlets:

*No. 7. Lighting in factories and workshops.

*4th ed. pam. 8o. Lond.: H.M.S.O.
1935. 6d. P (2.)

ERDBERG (ELEANOR VON)

Chinese influence on European garden structures. B. W. Pond, ed.

10". (vi) + 221 pp. + front. + var. pls. Camb., Mass.:
Harvard U.P.; Lond.: Oxford U.P. 1936.
£1 1s. R.

(RELIGIOUS)

ANDERSON (J. CORBET)

Monuments and antiquities of the old parish church of St. John the Baptist at Croydon, etc. (Croydon church, past and present, half-title.)

fo. priv. prin. 1871. (£1.) P.

NICOLSON (C. B.), text

England's greater churches. A pictorial survey &c.

8½", var. pp. Lond.: Batsford. [1937.] 3s. 6d. R.

BUCKLER (J. C.)

Views of the cathedral churches of England and Wales, etc. 40. Lond. 1822.

Presented by Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher [F.].

LENOIR (ALBERT)

Architecture monastique. (Collection de documents inédits sur l'histoire de France. 3me série: Archéologie.)

3 pts. in 2 vols. 40. Paris. 1852-56.

Presented by Mr. Bertram Christian.

NOPPEN (J. G.)

Royal Westminster and the Coronation.

9½". xvii+148 pp.+pls. Lond.: Country Life. 1937. 3s. 6d. R.

(EDUCATIONAL)

CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST

Annual report: 23rd [on] 1936.

1937. R.

GROPPIUS (WALTER)

Bauhausbauten Dessau. (Bauhausbücher, 12.)

9" x 7". 222 pp. incl. pls. Munich: A. Langen. [1930 or after.] (12s. 6d.) P.

BROUGHTON (E. G.)

The Planning and equipment of art schools. (Thesis for Final Examination, July.)

typescript, D. and Ph. 12½". 1936.

Presented by the Author.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Review of the principal acquisitions during . . . 1936.

1937. 2s. 6d. R.

With Libri desiderati [Library] inserted.

[ROSSI (GIOVANNI IGNAZIO)]

[La Libreria Mediceo-Laurenziana. Architettura di Michelagnolo Buonarroti.] Architettura della Biblioteca M—L— opera di M—B—, half-title.

Half-title and 11 proof-pls. only. fo. [Firenze. 1739.]

Presented by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, through Mr. William Palmer, Secretary.

JENKINSON (HILARY)

*A Manual of archive administration.

New ed. 9½". xvi+256 pp. Lond.: Lund, Humphries. 1937. 12s. 6d. (10s. 6d.) R. & P. (by subscription).

(DOMESTIC)

ADAMS-ACTON (MURRAY)

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12¼" x 9¾". xv+123 pp.+pls. Lond.: Geoffrey Bles. [1929.]

Presented by Mr. Basil Ionides [L.].

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*14. The Queen's House, Greenwich. By Geo. H. Chettle. Greenwich: National Maritime Museum.)

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(by subscription) and presented by the Museum and by Mr. J. E. Terbury [F.].

ELLISTON-ERWOOD (F. C.)

Well Hall [Eltham]. The story of the house &c. Written . . . on . . . the completion of the restoration work &c. P. C. Bursill, ed. (Woolwich Borough Council.)

8¾". 29 pp.+pls. [Woolwich. 1936.] (6d.) P.

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Room & window gardening.

9½". ix+80 pp.+pls. Lond.: Dent. 1937. 5s. P.

JOUTZ (LUDWIG)

Der Mittelalterliche kirchenvorhof in Deutschland. (Dissertation . . . Technischen Hochschule, Berlin.)

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BLANC (LOUIS)

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Design and a changing civilisation. (The Twentieth century library.)

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An Enquiry into industrial art in England.

9½". (xiv) + 234 pp. Cambridge: U.P. 1937. 16s. R.

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The Legacy of India. [Chap. on Indian art and archaeology by K. De B. Codrington and Muslim architecture in India by M. S. Briggs.]

7¼". xviii+428 pp.+front.+23 pls.+folding map. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1937. 10s. P.

BOSSERT (H. T.)

The Art of ancient Crete, &c. (The Earliest cultures of the Mediterranean countries series, i.)

9¾". 44 pp.+pls. (304 pp.). Lond.: Zwemmer. 1937. 12s. 6d. P.

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L'Art Catalan du X^e au XV^e siècle.

pfo. 12¾". text+42 pls. Paris: Calavas. [193—.] (£1 6s.) P.

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English pottery old and new.—A picture book of an exhibition arranged in collaboration with the Council for Art and Industry.

ob. 6½" x 7¼". 56 pp. Lond. 1936. 2s. R.

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11¼". 128 pp. Lond.: Studio. [1936.] 7s. 6d. R.

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English quilting old & new. &c.

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British standard specifications :
No. 728. . . for precast concrete hollow partition slabs.
pam. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. 1937. 2s. P.

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Metallic corrosion, passivity and protection.
9". xxiii + 720 pp. Lond. : Arnold. 1937. £2 5s. P.

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The Effect of cold-work and annealing on the hardness of some tin-antimony, &c. (Int. Tin Research and Development Council : Technical Pubns. Series A, No. 53.)
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5th ed. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". 311 pp. Ravensburg : Otto Maier.
[1935 or later.] (£1 12s. 6d.) P.

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pam. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. : H.M.S.O. 1936. 3d. R.

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Hungary from the air.
7". 64 pp. incl. pls. Budapest : Officina. [1937.]
Presented by the Author [Hon. Corr. Mem.].

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ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION : SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

School of planning, &c. [Illustrated prospectus. 1935-36.]
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BANGERT (WOLFGANG)

Baupolitik und stadtgestaltung in Frankfurt a.M. &c. (Dissertation . . . Technischen Hochschule, Berlin.)
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". ix + 161 pp. Würzburg : Triltsch. 1936.
Presented by the Librarian of the Patent Office.

SIMON (Sir E. D.) and others

Moscow in the making.
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". xii + 253 pp. + front. + 2 folding plans.
Lond. : Longmans, Green. 1937. 7s. 6d. R.

JELICOE (G. A.)

*Gardens of Europe.
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". (xvi) + 134 pp. incl. pls. Lond. : Blackie. 1937. 12s. 6d. R. & P.

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The Gardens of England and Wales open to the public, &c.
Pref. by Arthur Oswald.
Illustrated ed. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Lond. : Country Life.
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8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". xx + 339 pp. + pls. Lond. : Maclehose. 1937. 7s. 6d. P.

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8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". xx + 332 pp. + pls. Lond. : Dent. 1937. 10s. 6d. R. & P.

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The Hill lands of Britain. Development or decay?
8". 138 pp. Lond. : Faber and Faber. 1937. 6s. P.

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Save the Gogs! [Gog Magog Hills, near Cambridge.]
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GREAT BRITAIN

[Engravings, mostly from published works. By many draughtsmen and engravers.] Views of Great Britain, back title.
8 vols. 80. v.d.
Presented by Miss Winifred Giles, through the Friends of the National Libraries.

CAMPBELL (COLEN)

Sculptured portrait (bas-relief) at Compton Place, Eastbourne.
Simon C. Stanley (?), sculp.
Phot. of Sculp. [17—] (19—).
Presented by the Duke of Devonshire, through Mr. Francis Thompson, Librarian of Chatsworth.

LONDON : NEWGATE PRISON

— Geo. Dance, junr., archt. 1770-82.—Alterations. James Elmes, archt. 1835.—Bradbury (T.), Malton (Thomas) (?), and others, del.
30 sheets mounted on 14 : 8 D. (chiefly plans), 22 E. 1769-1816, 1835, and n.d.
Presented by Lt.-Col. Sir Godfrey Dalrymple-White, through Mr. Robert Atkinson [F.].

LONDON : COUNTY HALL

— Ralph Knott, archt. and del. River front : design.
Wash D. (Framed.) 1914.
Presented by Mr. E. Stone Collins [F.].

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Collection of drawings and engravings from architectural publ. works. (Var. draughtsmen and engravers.)
Colln. of D. in box. v.d.
Presented by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, through its Secretary (Mr. William Palmer).

CAMBRIDGE : DOWNING COLLEGE

— James Wyatt, archt. Design.
2 sheets. (Framed.) D. 1784. (£5.) P.

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Foreign Office, London. Design (second premium).
(Framed.) D. [1857.] (£2 10s.) P.

REINFORCED CONCRETE HOUSES

*Illustrated by two houses at Moor Park, Hertfordshire,
and at Wentworth, Surrey, by Connell, Ward & Lucas
[A.A. and L.]*

Since the days of "Gothic versus Classic" none of the many æsthetic controversies in which the architectural profession periodically indulges has reached such a degree of acuteness as that on the reinforced concrete house. Both new thought in design and the use of reinforced concrete construction have been accepted for many types of building, notably for hospitals and factories, almost without question. But the application of similar methods to the dwelling has aroused controversy, on both æsthetic and technical grounds, that has occasionally become almost bitter.

This article is intended to be an examination of the technique of reinforced concrete house design. Two houses, both by the same firm of architects, are illustrated as good recent examples.

The reinforced concrete house is the result of study aimed at the creation of living conditions that are generally better and more suited to present day tastes and requirements than those usually provided. It should be realised that the use of reinforced concrete is purely incidental. In their search for freedom in planning, the architects who are responsible for this type of design have adopted reinforced concrete construction only because they have realised the extent to which solid wall construction (and pitched roofs) limits planning. Were a more flexible method of construction or a more amenable material discovered, they would use it.

The material itself naturally affects design strongly and in consequence an important aspect of these houses is the attempt to find its logical and economical use and expression. Reinforced concrete is so new a structural material that it lacks the background of almost instinctive use and expression possessed by older forms of construction.



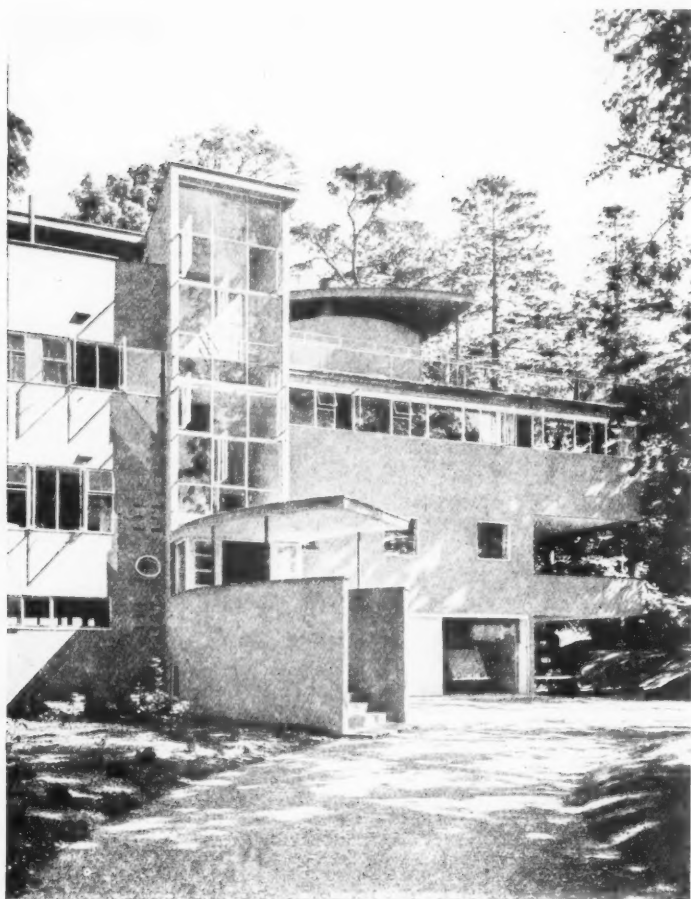
The Moor Park house. The walls of the long elevations are coloured a soft olive green, those of the end elevations a darker tone of brown. Soffits are cream, the window frames dark ivory colour and the underside of the roof canopy a glossy blue. This colour scheme was submitted to the Local Advisory Panel and approved by them.

In its short life reinforced concrete construction has gone through many vicissitudes in design. The fact appears to be emerging, however, that its most economical use is in the form of posts and structural panels, the former being capable of great irregularity in spacing and the latter of use horizontally, vertically or sloping, at the same time having extensive possibilities in cantilever construction.

There are after all only three major forms of construction in general use for building to-day. These are :—

(1) Solid continuous wall structures supporting beams and floor slabs. In their ultimate refinements the masses of this form of structure—essentially one of stone or brick masonry—may logically be given the proportions and even the detail of the Classic orders.

(2) Framed construction with panel filling. The principal materials are steel and wood, each possessing its own expression and capable of use with a variety of panel materials.



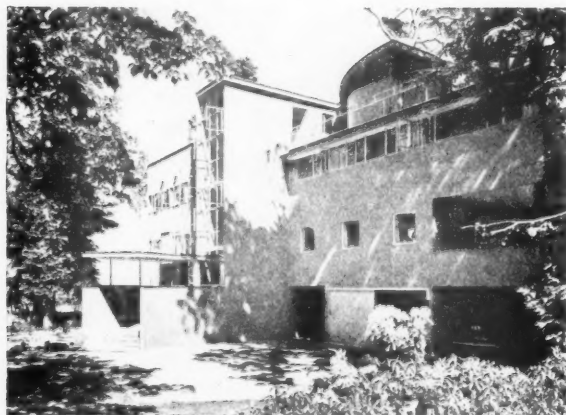
The Moor Park house. The entrance is arranged to allow passengers from cars to be deposited under cover in wet weather. There is also direct access from the garage to the house interior. The front door is surfaced with mottled green plastic in one sheet

(3) Post and panel construction. This structural system has been created by and is the logical expression of reinforced concrete. Its essential difference from other systems lies in the fact that the structural members can be of any cross section with, at the same time, great relative strength in the joints between planes and units.

There is a fourth major system of building construction, namely, the arched form which results in purely compressive stresses (e.g., vaulted structures), but this is now obsolescent and is hardly ever used to-day. Large clear spans have, however, been achieved by the use of reinforced concrete in domed and vaulted forms. But these exert no thrusts and the resemblance to true vaulted structures is only superficial.

One cannot judge one system of construction by the criteria of another. This is clearly seen when unencumbered struc-

The Moor Park house. Left, the entrance front; right, the roof. The long ranges of windows that are usually kept open have projecting hoods over them (called "eyebrows" by the architects) to reduce the glare from high-angle sun in summer and to protect the windows from rain. The roof canopy on the south side is designed to provide reasonable shade in summer; the screen wall can be extended with canvas curtains to give shelter from wind

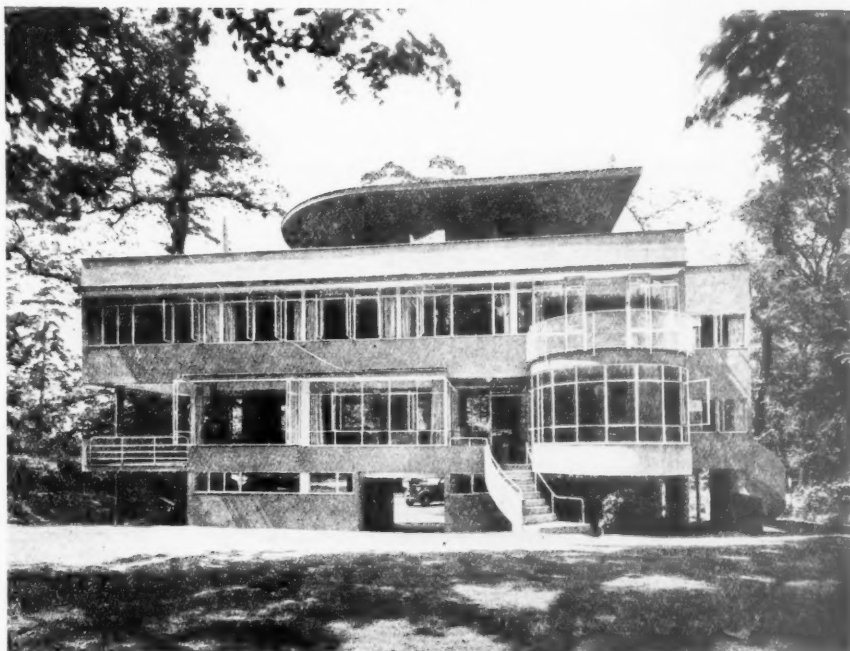


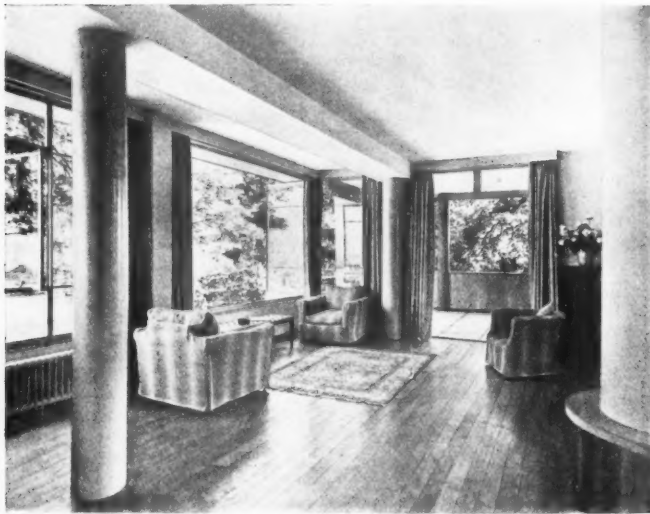
The Moor Park house. The level of the main floor has been raised to command an extensive view of the golf course to the east. All wastes, rainwater pipes and vents are arranged in internal ducts

tural forms are examined, as, for example, the masonry arched bridge (compressive stresses) and the steel girder bridge (mainly tensile stresses). The two cannot be compared but only judged individually as examples of their type. Therefore, to begin with, one should not expect a house logically built in post and panel construction to look like one that has a continuous wall structure, nor should the two be judged by the same standards as regards appearance. Statement of that fact, which is accepted by modern architects, is a necessary prelude to further discussion.

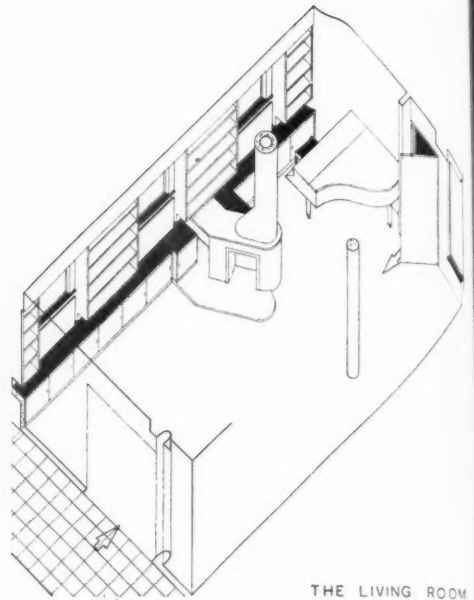
This experimental work in house design (for it has hitherto been largely that) has been to some extent misunderstood and misrepresented. It has occasionally been said that the architects attempting it are deliberately "stunting" in a "cult of ugliness" in order to catch the public eye—a statement that is patently ridiculous. It is also often assumed that they are following a theory of "functionalism," which can be defined as the belief that an object which fulfils its purpose is *ipso facto* of good design. This is not the case. Modern architects, while seeking to make each object

The Moor Park house. View of the garden side from the north-east showing the curved end of the dining room and the day nursery balcony above. At the service door there is a short refuse chute discharging into bins at ground level





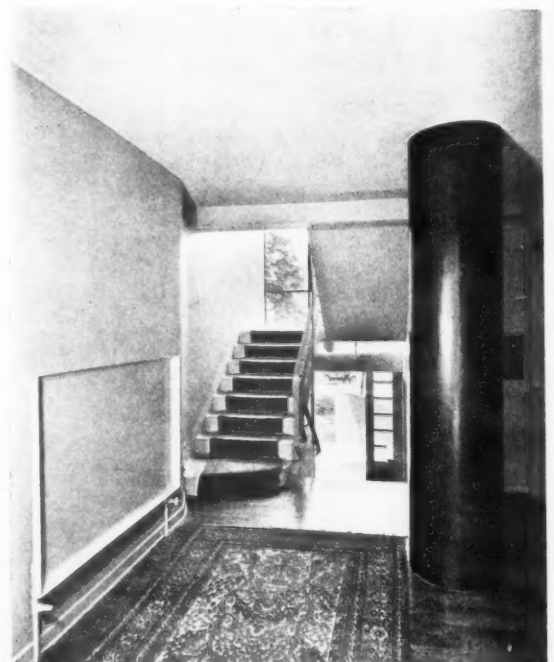
The Moor Park house. The living room, shown on the left, arranged for summer living round the concertina window commanding the principal view. The main wall colour is light matt pink, the end wall behind the piano glossy dark blue and the column light blue. The floor is oak boarding



THE LIVING ROOM

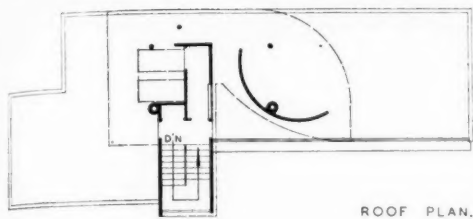


The Moor Park house. A child's bedroom in blue and red. All bedrooms have basins, heated towel rails and fitted clothes cupboards

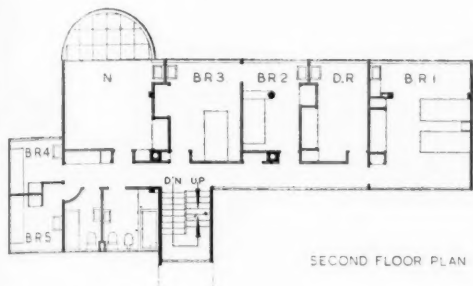


The Moor Park house. The entrance hall looking towards the front door and staircase. The colour scheme is broken white and rose pink

The Moor Park house plans. The load-bearing and structural members are shown black. On the bedroom floor the cupboards are arranged to give extra sound insulation between rooms. The linen cupboard is in two compartments, one for drying and one for airing

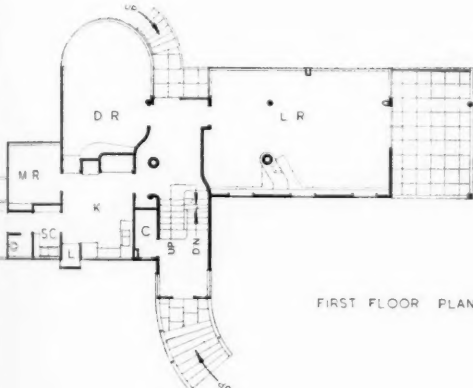


ROOF PLAN.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- BR BEDROOM
- DR DRESSING ROOM
- N NURSERY



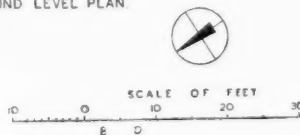
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- L.R. LIVING ROOM
- D.R. DINING ROOM
- K. KITCHEN
- S.C. SCULLERY
- M.R. MAID'S ROOM
- L. LARDER
- C. CLOAKS



GROUND LEVEL PLAN

- G. GARAGE
- C.W. CAR WASH
- W. WINE STORE
- S. STORE
- B. BOILER ROOM
- T. TOOL STORE
- F. FUEL
- R. REFUSE



they create fulfil its purpose, are aware that good appearance is part of that purpose. Therefore they consciously use the designer's taste and skill in composing, shaping and colouring that object, though endeavouring to do so in conformity with its function and without preconceptions either fanciful, sentimental or reminiscent. It is not therefore surprising that in so thorough a search for essentials, minor refinements have yet to come. Post and panel construction is still a very long way from the degree of refinement to which the Greeks brought solid wall masonry structures.

The primary aim in this type of house design is to create a dwelling organisation that is comfortable and pleasant to live in and easy to operate, as far as possible avoiding the defects observed in dwellings as hitherto constructed. These defects are inconvenience and inflexibility of accommodation, gloominess of parts of the interior, a sense of enclosure and isolation from the garden, the creation (and acceptance) of unnecessary domestic labour, inadequate orientation and the use of unnecessarily massive structures.

The structural material—reinforced concrete—like all materials has its own relative advantages and disadvantages. The principal advantage is flexibility in use. The floor plans here reproduced show the small total cross-sectional area of the supporting structure. Arrangement of reinforcement allows the supports to be placed with great freedom. For example, the floor over the living room in the Moor Park house is partly a span between a wall and a beam and partly cantilevered beyond the beam, the post supporting the beam being placed at a convenient point. Floors can be hung from the external walls under the windows of the room above.

To one not used to thinking in terms of post and panel construction, the freedom it gives is almost embarrassing. The designer automatically finds himself thinking in terms of enclosing walls, of walls parallel to one another in order to support floor spans at both ends, of the necessity for deep visible beams where there is no wall and of returned ends to walls in order to strengthen angles. All these things in solid wall construction

The Wentworth house plans. Heating is by one open fire and by thermostatically controlled electric tubes and fires. The floors are of wood blocks and, in the dining room, large grey-green tiles

are limitations on planning, though most designers are so used to them that their limiting effect is not perceived. Post and panel construction is not without limitations, but they are less restrictive.

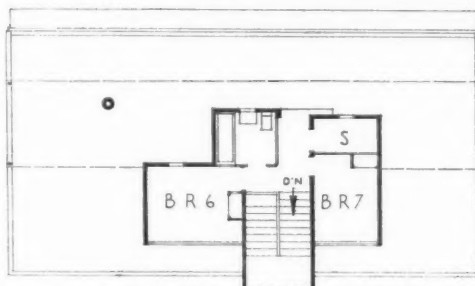
The small extent of supports frees the greater part of the perimeter of the building for window. Large glass areas are a typical feature of these post and panel houses and it is on them that technical discussion is liable to be most fierce. It is said that they result in too great heat losses, that there is lack of privacy, that the rooms are not comfortable, being cold in winter and hot in summer.

The first answer that can be made to these statements is that clients, after living in the houses, almost without exception say that they could not endure ever again a house with small windows. The sensations of spaciousness and of the close relation between house interior and garden—difficult to analyse and almost impossible to describe—become an essential part of existence.

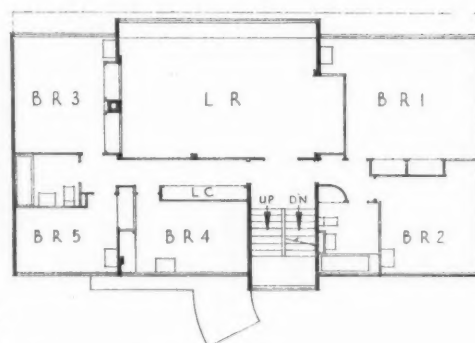
Heat losses and consequently fuel consumption are not found to be noticeably above normal. This is doubtless due to the fact that the walls have a higher degree of insulation than usual, thereby counterbalancing to some extent losses through the glass. It is found on the contrary that sunshine, trapped by the glass, contributes considerably to the warmth of the interior in winter. Exclusion of excessive heat from the sun is not a matter of moment as it is easily controlled by curtains and sunblinds. The days on which in England it is necessary to exclude the sunshine are very few compared with those on which it is desirable to admit it.

Privacy has partly to do with the site and partly with planning. It will be observed that the interiors of both these houses are sufficiently excluded from view from their access roads and front gardens and are both fully open to the back gardens. Privacy of interiors is also not so much a matter of glass area as of height of window cills.

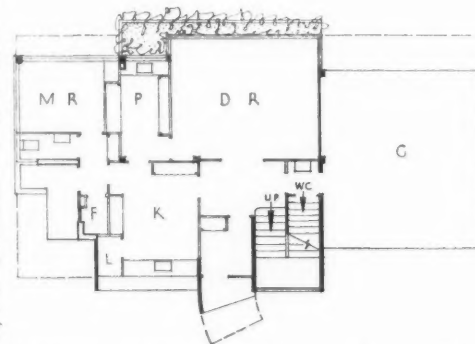
The structure of these two houses is more or less identical. Both consist of wall and floor slabs of reinforced concrete of a minimum thickness of four inches. The interior wall surfaces are lined with wallboard for thermal insulation, which is placed in the shuttering and consequently adheres strongly to the concrete. The



ROOF PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

B. R. BEDROOM
S STORE

L R LIVING ROOM
B R BEDROOM
L C LINEN

D R DINING ROOM
P PANTRY
K KITCHEN
M R MAID'S ROOM
F FUEL
L LARDER.



SCALE OF FEET
10 0 10 20 30

interior surface is of plaster and the exterior of coloured renderings (scraped "Cullamix"). In the Wentworth house some of the non-bearing walls were built of brickwork. The flat roofs are similarly insulated with wallboard and waterproofed with asphalt. The concrete floors allow a great variety of surface materials to be used, the

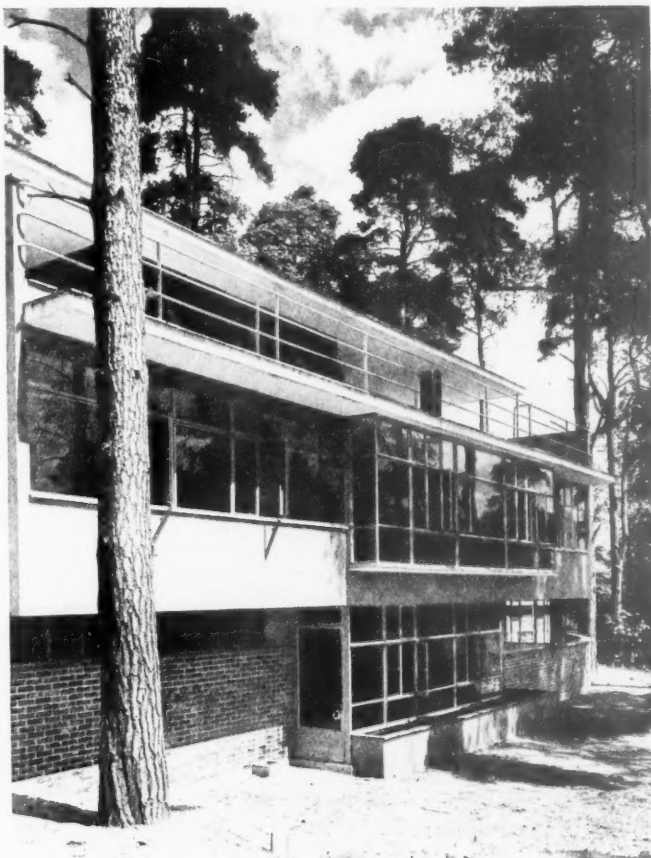
The Wentworth house. The garden front. The house was the subject of a successful arbitration with the estate owners concerning the amenities of the estate

principal ones in these houses being hardwood boards, tiles and wood blocks.

One feature worth noting is the comparative simplicity of the foundations in post and panel buildings. Concentration of load into points, together with general light dead loads, give a great deal less excavation and filling than is required for solid wall structures of equivalent size; this may be a matter of some moment on uneven sites. Further, the buildings do not appear to grow out of the ground as do solid wall structures—an impression which the designer may very properly emphasise consciously in the latter case. Rather do they seem to rest on the ground and to be lightly rooted in it.

Other criticisms often aimed at houses of this design are that maintenance costs are unduly high; that there is no economy in first cost and that therefore the houses might as well be built of brick; that flat roofs are unnecessary; that the houses are "ugly."

Maintenance costs are very much a matter of the skill and knowledge of the contractor and therefore of supervision. Accurate concrete mixing and grading of aggregate will achieve a watertight wall. Skilled placing of concrete will prevent the construction joints between successive pourings of concrete from becoming planes of weakness and moisture penetration. Renderings can be applied so that they will stay on the walls. The work in fact calls for real craftsmanship in reinforced concrete work; the casual methods (as, for example, in the placing

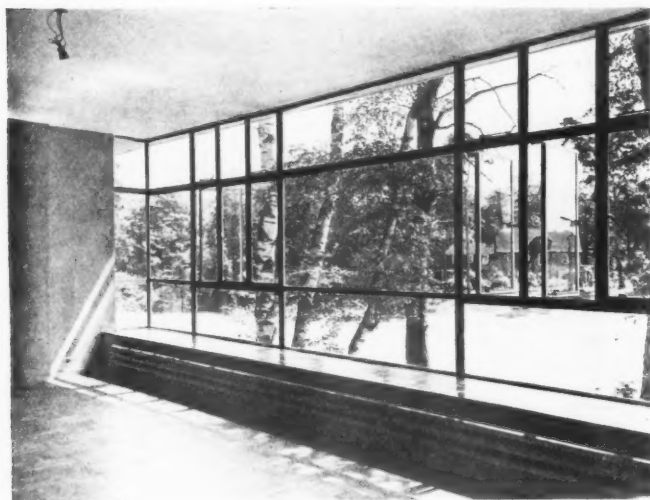


of reinforcement) of the ordinary small house builder will not do. This perhaps is a disadvantage of post and panel construction in reinforced concrete, namely, that it demands scientific design and expert execution. It is therefore not surprising that architects find that only a limited class of contractor can safely be entrusted with this work. They find also that after a contractor has built one house his work becomes progressively better and cheaper.

In the matter of cost it is not possible to compare closely with traditional methods. Not only do the two provide such different results, but the cost of a reinforced concrete house cannot accurately be expressed



The Wentworth house. Entrance front. The general wall colour is a soft green, that of the projecting stair, door hood, etc., being light cream. The walls to the bedrooms on the roof are finished dark brown. The renderings contain a sprinkling of mica. Multi-coloured brickwork has been used for some non-bearing walls



The Wentworth house. Above: The living room has been placed on the first floor to command the best view; it has a projecting window with wide cill. Below, left: The staircase window gives a sense of freshness to the interior and commands tall vertical views of trees. Below, right: View on the roof, which is covered with asbestos tiles



at cost per cubic foot. On the basis of floor area, however, a reinforced concrete house in spite of being a stranger to the building industry, compares very favourably with a brick house having the same degree of finish and equipment.

Why a flat roof? A flat ceiling to the upper rooms is required. This in a reinforced concrete building is most conveniently made of that material. All that is then required is sufficient insulation and adequate waterproofing. Having got a flat roof, why not design and equip it as an added amenity to the house? Moreover, why be still more limited in plan forms by the geometrical requirements of pitched roofs?

The so-called "ugliness" of reinforced concrete houses depends first on one's conception of beauty. It has been pointed out that a post and panel building cannot be judged by the same standards as those applicable to other types of construction. The observer's mind must first accept the statics underlying the design

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of the structure, just as he does (by custom) those underlying solid wall building. Once he can think in terms of reinforced concrete he begins to appreciate the forms of a particular example.

The post and panel house as a type is but a few years old. In such experimental work mistakes have been inevitable. Yet in spite of merciless exposure of every such mistake by opponents, in spite of the extra labour, endless trouble and risks involved for the architects, the number of post and panel houses is steadily increasing. There is no doubt that there is a considerable and growing section of the public which is dissatisfied with the conventional house. That many persons are willing to risk an experiment—which may be costly—in an effort to get something better as a dwelling shows the force of this dissatisfaction. That the houses provide what the clients ask of them is proved by the increasing numbers built.

The movement in design which these houses represent has suffered from being copied by persons who do not grasp the structural and planning techniques which are its basis. Features that are typical of post and panel

building, as, for example, the continuous horizontal window, have been incorporated in solid wall structures (to which they are quite unsuited) by devices of doubtful ingenuity. The modern movement has been extensively blamed for these "modernistic" copies, of which the hallmark is a usually obvious insincerity.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of these reinforced concrete houses is their sincerity. They—unlike their modernistic imitations—are not concerned with a style; in them the external appearance is incidental, following from the pursuit of the free plan and of the natural use and expression of structure. It is these last two facts which places them in the path of the logical development of architectural tradition. In all architectural epochs throughout history two fundamental pursuits of mankind have been the free plan and economy of structure.

This research work ought not to be prejudged but observed with interest by the architectural profession. Finally, the decision as to the value of the results obtained does not rest with the architectural profession but with mankind in general.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL ANNUAL EXHIBITION

at the Walker Gallery, Liverpool, 24 July 1937

Lord Samuel, opening the annual exhibition of the work of students of the Liverpool School of Architecture, emphasised some of the social aspects of contemporary architecture. He made a strong plea for the consideration of schemes for the reconstruction of the central areas of our towns in preparation for the slump which economists tell us is coming. The drawings on the walls illustrated his argument, and showed that Liverpool students are alive to the necessity of clearing away the legacy of squalor and vulgarity from the nineteenth—and, for that matter, the twentieth—century. For it is one of the traditions of the Liverpool School and its Department of Civic Design to consider architecture as a matter not of individual buildings simply but of civic and landscape design.

It is in this spirit that thesis drawings such as those showing a suggested reconstruction of Lime Street Station, by T. Mellor—a long overdue improvement of Liverpool's central area—and that for a reconstruction of the Mersey Tunnel Entrance, by A. B. Williams, have been conceived. This tunnel entrance scheme is, in fact, an admirable illustration of the outlook fostered by the school. The author chose, as his subject for a thesis design, a technical college for Liverpool on a site adjoining the tunnel entrance: and in order to utilise his site to full advantage he found it necessary to re-plan the surrounding area. Thus the work of the School of Architecture merges into that of the Department of Civic Design, whose students show some interesting development and planning schemes, including imaginative proposals for Heswall's magnificent but, at present, stupidly developed site by F. A. S. Hassan and J. B. Shaw, a scheme for the industrial development of

Ellesmere Port by J. B. Shaw, and other similar schemes.

This broad outlook, adopted in so many of the thesis designs of fifth-year students, is fostered by the type of programme set in the earlier years. The method may be studied in operation, so to speak, from a model of a village in connection with a scheme of afforestation in Central Wales, by a group of second-year students; and from a model and a set of drawings of a railway station and hotel at Formby, by a group from the third year. In the second year the students are introduced to problems of co-operation and grouping on an open site; and in the following year the greater restrictions of a partly developed site are imposed.

Apart from the schemes, in which the problems of civic and landscape design are at least as important as those of detailed planning, there are thesis designs for factories—notably a soap factory for Bromborough Port by R. H. Shaw, and another for Ware, Hertfordshire, by H. G. F. Higgins—demonstrating the school's firm belief that every type of building comes within the scope of architectural design. Moreover there are designs for buildings in distant parts of the world, as, for instance, a fine arts centre for Johannesburg by R. V. Ward, and a ranch in Texas by G. E. Smith, suggesting that Liverpool is quite willing to transform the whole earth. Therein, perhaps, lies the secret of the Liverpool School, rather than in any technical competence on the part of its students. Technical knowledge can be acquired later, but the earnest desire to improve the world is a thing that can be killed or cultivated in the student. It is because Liverpool's aim is to educate and not to instruct that its students leave with this essential quality strengthened. W. A. E.

PARIS, 1937



"PARIS," wrote Paul Cohen-Portheim, her most recent and perhaps her best biographer, "Paris is the city of wide majestic vistas, rational planning and cheerful grandeur, of the ample aristocratic gesture in a return to which every revolution ends." This is the Paris of Leon Blum and Chaumets no less than of Louis XIV. The visitor to the great Exhibition of the Arts and Technics of Modern Times may be moved to the most ecstatic heights of architectural enthusiasm by Aalto's Finnish pavilion, by the pavilions for Denmark, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, even by the pavilions for Germany and Russia, but, whatever particular lines his enthusiasm may follow, time and time again he must return to praise the comprehensive magnificence of the essential whole, the essential French aristocratic gesture in that democratic country that has swept away dusky, overclothed, outmoded Trocadero and built a new shiny white classic nude, surrendered the banks of the Seine to the various tastes of half the countries of the world, laid waste the Champ de Mars to be an emporium of alien architecture, streamed her pavilions from the Place de la Concorde to beyond the end of the Ile des Cygnes and filled her galleries new and old with the richest entertainment of pictures and objects that any modern city has yet seen. And done all this with a spaciousness and prodigality that might either account for or belie the reality of the financial crisis and the falling franc. The most remarkable feature is not so much that this gesture can be made but that it can be made without disturbing the essential traditional Paris that lies all around. The exhibition is no intrusion into the heart of the city but a natural extension of its activities, accepted more complacently by Parisians than by the visitors for whom it is all designed.

At present the visitor's chief interest must be in the various national pavilions, chiefly because the larger French national exhibits are mostly not yet ready. But the visitor need not feel that he is being cheated of his six francs entrance money. There is much more

to see than most careful sightseers can manage in the probably limited time at their disposal and several days will not be enough to study the architecture, the exhibits and the problems of character and culture exhibited by and in the national pavilions. Dismissing for a moment those countries whose pavilions seem to have a political intention which overrides the purely cultural or even the trades purposes of the less self-conscious countries, we are left with those pavilions in which this more modest purpose of being just a good exhibition of national products and national life has been expressed in varying degrees of efficiency. Perhaps the most remarkable feature evident even to the most obstinate anti-modernist is the fact that without exception the best pavilions are those which show a comfortable assimilation of modern forms and modern materials and a lively understanding of the modern aesthetic. Compare, for instance, the vigorous form building of the succession of Danish show windows riding up the hill, exactly right in colour, scale and function, with the Stilton cheese or hat-box, as it is very widely called, a circular erection over the entrance to the British pavilion. Notice, too, the rear façade of the Austrian pavilion, one of the most expressive architectural units of the whole show. This is nothing more than an absolutely flat, almost square, façade cantilevered over a range of windows; a screen of spindly trees in the foreground spreadeagle themselves as a diaper of natural moving pattern against the face of the building and relate themselves perfectly to the only touch of colour, a large pictorialized map of Austria. Aalto's Finnish pavilion and the engaging Polish pavilion, both entirely free from cliché, both architecturally a bit self-conscious, the Japanese pavilion by a pupil of Corbusier, intimately Japanese and palpably "international," the coldly precise Swiss pavilion, hard like the mountains and rigidly purposeful like the watches inside it, Sert's unfinished *cri du cœur* from Spain, these are the best national pavilions. A long way behind comes Great

Britain with one of the best sites in the exhibition and one of the worst exhibits. Why, said more than one visitor, has Great Britain so resolutely turned her back on the water, so that not even the restaurant can use the waterfront.

It is true that in some respects at least some countries have an easier task than others; the task is easier for those countries where the outlines of national scenery and industry are broadly defined. In Germany and Russia, for instance, the political motif serves as an all-embracing theme; in Switzerland there is in general one scenery motif and one dominant industrial motif, watch-making; in Finland and some other northern countries the dominance of the timber industry provides the motif. All these are easily "exhibitable" and can be merged into a good propagandist theme. Simplification was undoubtedly necessary, but by concentrating on the English week-end the organisers have perverted the whole purpose of the exhibition to show a side of English life which concerns a fraction only of its people and practically none of its visitors. The first inscription, almost, which greets the visitor to the pavilion is a statement that pheasant, grouse, partridge and all kinds of game abound in Great Britain . . . where sport is a national pastime, or something to that effect. This can be compared with the foyer to the Austrian pavilion, where the visitor is introduced to a passably good trade show by a charmingly designed "salle d'honneur" which pays tribute to the whole accumulation of Austrian culture by a proud and simple inscription recording Austria's great men, the men on whose achievement in art, science and industry the present quality of Austria is built. The exhibit, admirably restrained, consists of one quite small showcase with manuscripts by Beethoven, Mozart, Fischer von Erlach and others (they thought it worth while to include an architect) which just touch in a moving, personal way the personalities of these men; the impression thus produced is sharp and positive, it controls the sense with which the visitor later understands the tables and chairs, the paintings and photographs, machines and the utensils of the rest of the exhibit. A comparable approach is made by every other country excepting only Great Britain, which is content with a banal and hardly exclusive blurb about *le sport* and drives home its argument by showing, for instance, eighteen cricket bats where two or three will suffice. Throughout the pavilion, which in detail is admirably arranged, one gets this impression of a stutterer saying nothing very important. Instead of, for instance, one shepherd's crook to show, if it is necessary to do so at all, that shepherds use crooks in England, there are eleven; instead of one grandly conceived photo-mural which can epitomise England there are about sixty thoroughly badly reproduced photographs staggered about the stairway. They confuse rather than show-off the grand semi-circular well to this stairway that Mr. Oliver Hill has given, which without this confusion would be one of the best things in any pavilion. The pavilion as it is is much larger than many, but because of the unnatural restriction in scope seems to show less that is essential than many. Shipbuilding, railway engines and transport generally, one of the greatest of all British

industries, is crammed, out of deference to less essential things, into a shallow window twenty feet long between furnishing textiles and the R.I.B.A. photos of week-end houses, which at least have forty feet. There are good sections, book and typography among others, and many of the sections, which can be criticised for their general content in relation to the purpose of such a pavilion as this, are in themselves admirable. But what of architecture? In practically every other national pavilion the buildings of the country are shown, not only as features of national life which on their own account deserve attention, but as the proper background to industry, art, education and government. There are photographs and models and even plans. Here in Britain our positive neglect is only emphasised by the inclusion of the week-end house pictures; better indeed those than nothing, but surely the contribution of building to the life of this country is not so negligible. The R.I.B.A. at an early stage made earnest representation that this was so but was told that the week-end was the theme and "week-end houses" all that were wanted.

The British catalogue, which introduces itself with a complacent and probably needless explanation that it is all British, is a large octavo volume two inches thick in French and English. No one wants to carry about an exhibition the catalogue of one fractional part of it which is too large to put in a pocket, too large to consult easily, too spaciouly planned in its layout to make reference easy and, in fact, is as useless for the casual visitor whose interest should be wooed as it is unnecessary if all exhibits were properly labelled. If, which is luckily not so, other countries did the same the visitor would need a wheelbarrow to carry his catalogues home and then would probably leave them there instead of slipping them into his pocket for his subsequent visits, which can be done, for instance, with the Danish booklet, which is charmingly produced, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and yet contains everything any visitor could want while in the pavilion or as a reminder after he has left. Its few lively colour prints, its typography and its whole character themselves explain that it is a first-rate piece of Danish printing and need no more explanation.

On the outside of the pavilion is a large map of the British Isles, showing in neon tube lighting the main line railways; as ill-luck would have it, the Irish railway system turns out to represent a crudely drawn impudent teddy bear seated with its back to England. When the lights are on and all the great panorama is a blaze of fireworks and floodlight this ludicrous joke gleams out from the front of our pavilion, neither Ireland nor England can be seen, only a meaningless network of scarlet tube for the English railways and the teddy bear!

Criticism is generally easy and the game of spotting omissions an easy one, but this lament is heartfelt. How far it is justified each visitor must judge for himself. It can sincerely be hoped that as many architects as possible will go to Paris now, not to carp at the British pavilion, but to revel in the numberless amazing things that the city and the exhibition have to offer.



Correspondence

BUILDING AND REARMAMENT

182 Haverstock Hill,
London, N.W.3.
12.6.37.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

SIR,—I was interested to see, from Mr. Sidney Tatchell's reply to Mr. R. C. Fisher during the discussion on the Report of the Executive Committee at the last Annual General Meeting, that the Council is alive to some of the dangers inherent in the Government's armament programme for the architectural profession, the building industry and the public.

It is apparently proposed that by means of the postponement of public works a reserve shall be created which can be put into operation to prevent unemployment when work in connection with the war industries ceases. This suggestion fails to inspire confidence for a number of reasons, of which two may be mentioned.

(1) I find great difficulty in imagining—but perhaps Mr. Tatchell can tell me—what the work is which municipal authorities can reserve "quite properly and without any harm to the public . . . during the period of intense pressure." There are still immense districts where life is blighted by decayed housing; the number of black-listed schools is

still a disgrace to us; many people in the Midland counties still have to walk miles for water in the summer and are flooded out in the winter. The interests of the public clearly demand more, not less, work to be put in hand for social needs, and it should surely be the duty of our profession to urge that it should be done.

(2) I do not wish to introduce politics into this letter, but I cannot help feeling that Mr. Tatchell must indeed be a fanatical supporter of the Government if he believes so easily (a) that the present programme will end in 1941 as planned and (b) that if it does end the Government and municipal authorities will at once press forward with works of social value.

During 1931 the abandonment of schemes of this nature was pressed by the Government as one of the most important means of extricating themselves from the depression. How much more, then, will it be necessary to avoid this extra expenditure when, in addition to the crisis which is certainly coming, they find themselves burdened with a gigantic debt due to the armament programme.

I earnestly hope that the Council will reconsider this vital question.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN PENN [A.]

Notes

SIR RAYMOND UNWIN

Harvard University have conferred on Sir Raymond Unwin an honorary degree of Doctor of Arts.

APPOINTMENT VACANT

SUDAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Sudan Government invite applications for the post of architect in the Public Works Department for a period of two years in the first instance, with prospects of permanent and pensionable employment.

Candidates should not be less than 23 years of age nor more than 30 years of age, and preferably unmarried. The qualification for the post is, as a minimum, A.R.I.B.A.

The salary to begin with would be £E.480 or £E.540 per annum, according to the age and qualification of the selected candidate. (£E.1=£1 os. 6d.) If accepted for permanent service the holder of the post will be eligible for increments bringing his salary to £E.936 per annum after fifteen years' service, with possibilities of promotion to the higher scales of pay of the service.

The successful candidate would have to pass a strict medical examination and would be entitled to a free first class passage to the Sudan.

The interviews in connection with this post will probably take place about the middle of August.

CIVIC CENTRES EXHIBITION

This exhibition, provisionally booked for the City Art Gallery, Birmingham, for 7 July to 7 August 1937, and announced in the exhibition programme published in the JOURNAL at the beginning of the year, will not be shown at Birmingham.

FOUND IN THE LIBRARY

A Swan fountain pen was found in the library at the end of April. Will the owner please send a description of it to the Librarian, when it will be returned.

COUNTY HALL—DISPOSAL OF BOILERS

The London County Council has for disposal six steel cylindrical No. 6 gunboat hot water boilers (17 ft. long by 8 ft. diam.) in good working order.

The boilers will be removed from their seatings and placed in a position ready for transport.

One or more of the boilers may be sold at a time and the price would be fixed by agreement.

The boilers are installed at the County Hall and may be seen at any time by appointment with this office (telephone: Waterloo 5000, Extension 8211). They were installed in 1923.

Further copies of the particulars are available upon request.

Obituary

SOME PERSONAL NOTES.

My first recollection of Sydney Kitson dates from 1889, his freshman year at Cambridge, and as he was then, so he remained, eager, humorous, keen for experience of life and humanity and, for all his apparent tolerance, shrewd in his judgment of men and things.

From Cambridge we passed on to pupilage in London, he with E. J. May and I with Mervyn Macartney, and would often go out for week-ends together, measuring, sketching and discussing architecture. He was not happy in London at that time; he had few friends there, and the loneliness, compared with the family life in Cambridge and Leeds, depressed his sociable spirit.

In 1896, at the end of our pupilages, we travelled together in Italy and Greece for some months, and it is easy to imagine what an admirable travelling companion he was. At the same time it was noticeable in those days how his mercurial temperament exacted payment for his keen enjoyment by fits of depression, which either a life of happy circumstance or self-discipline caused to disappear in later years. We spent a week or more travelling by boat down the Adriatic coast from Trieste to Athens, changing steamers and sleeping at Zara, Spalato and Corfu. Hardly any English architects except Graham Jackson had visited those romantic places at that time, and the excitement of discovery was continuous—Sanmichelian gates, the cathedrals of Traù and Sebenico, Diocletian's palace at Spalato, gipsies boarding the boat with cart-wheels and live poultry under their arms, Albanians in their Pierrot clothing, and a superb Montenegrin, his sash stuck full of pistols and daggers, who was a, or the, professor at the university of Cetinje.

His foreign travel was cut short by a severe attack of typhoid, and thereafter he settled in to practice in Leeds with his partner, F. W. Bedford. He did not often come to London, but pleasant memories remain of visits to the house which he had delightfully altered and adapted on a hillside—Hillside was its name—near Roundhay Park.

Until the War he was absorbed in the conduct of his large local practice, but during the war years he served as A.P.M. for Nottinghamshire, and fatigue and exposure in the course of his duties sowed the seeds of the lung disease which, with intervals of apparent recovery, finally undermined his strong constitution. This was borne to the end with great gallantry. He rarely referred to it except in the briefest way, refused to be or be considered an invalid, and would not allow it to interfere with his activities, mental or physical, except when from time to time it forced him to lie up for a while. If he had given in and taken more precau-

tions he might have lived a few more years, but only at the expense of what to him made life worth living, and we who cared for him feel that he was right.

After the War he lived in London for a time, then at Boston Spa, in Yorkshire, and finally moved to Kidlington, near Oxford. It was during this last period that he took up Institute work, serving on various committees, until it was evident that he would be the ideal honorary secretary. He took the post in 1928, and justified all hopes. Indeed, what he did for the Institute in the next six years can never be told. He had a way of foreseeing and averting difficulties before they arose, which is a rare gift. Sometimes it was done by a pungent remark, sometimes by friendliness, sometimes by a mere twinkle of the eye—the result was the same, the bull-frog was deflated, the quarrel was dissolved in laughter, the molehill never grew into a mountain. Kitson knew how good temper leads to good work, and made up his mind to do all he could towards smoothing away friction in the Council. The few who criticised him as frivolous were too solemn to understand the purpose which was behind his geniality and could not know all the hard work of advising and suggesting and criticising which he put in behind the scenes. The great majority of those who came in touch with him loved him unreservedly and felt the broad humanity of his friendship.

The sudden death of his deeply loved wife was a blow which perhaps the unavoidable claims of his Institute work helped him to face, and if the Institute owes him a lasting debt, it is perhaps not too much to say that his time of office had its effect in broadening his sympathies and making his humanity even richer than it was before.

For years he had been a student and collector of Cotman's work and in a lesser degree of the other water-colourists of Cotman's time, and when his honorary secretaryship was done he devoted his time and all his remaining energies to the Life of John Sell Cotman which by strong determination he was able to finish and see through the press in the spring of this year. His friends rejoiced in the reception it got, and in the pleasure which that reception gave him. It is needless to speak of the qualities of scholarship, untiring research, human sympathy and artistic perception which the book displays. He put all his best into it. His artistic perception was wonderfully sharpened by experience and by the application of his favourite question about artist or work of art—"Has he (or it) the Holy Ghost?" Could there be a better test?

Our Institute will have many good men to serve it, but not another Sydney Kitson.

H. M. FLETCHER.

Professor A. HAMILTON THOMPSON writes as follows :—

Sydney Kitson was well known to many beyond the circle of his intimate friends as an architect who applied his professional training to good purpose in the service of historical research. He had taken his degree from the School of History at Cambridge, and his studies there had a lasting effect upon his attitude to his own and kindred arts. His appreciation of historic buildings, in which affection for no single period predominated, was guided by a singularly keen and just perception of their merit as works of art, and led him to trace their growth with a zest which was content to leave no problem unexplored or without finding some solution to satisfy reason and common sense. Much descriptive writing on such subjects was supplied by him to the excursion programmes of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Thoresby societies, of which he was for many years an active member, while he made a permanent contribution of great value to the architectural history of his native county in the large series of appropriately shaded and coloured ground plans of Yorkshire parish churches presented by him a few years ago to the first of the above-named societies. No less interesting is the fine coloured plan drawn by him for the Thoresby Society's volume on Bolton Priory. As a speaker at archaeological meetings he possessed the requisite gifts in full measure. The present writer remembers in particular an address delivered to the Royal Archaeological Institute at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon, in 1922, in which Kitson surpassed himself in the skill with which he selected leading points in the history of the building to enchain the attention of his audience, in the clearness of his architectural exposition, and in the play of wit with which his whole discourse was salted.

The connection with the Archaeological Institute which began on that occasion had a far-reaching influence upon the work of his later life. It was in the following year that he attended the Institute's meeting at Norwich, and came into contact with the works of the Norwich painters. Always susceptible to the attractions of painting and a connoisseur of water-colour drawing, he developed at this time the enthusiasm for Cotman which became an absorbing interest. A year later, when threatened with a complete breakdown in health, he was ordered by his doctor to the coast of Norfolk, and the opportunity which he then had of pursuing his studies in this direction was no small factor in promoting his recovery and lengthening his life. It is true that, during the thirteen years that were left to him, his activities were restricted, but those years were none the less fruitful in good work, giving him time to devote himself to his cherished subject, while for six of them he rendered sterling service to the R.I.B.A. to which it may be left to others to do full justice.

Although Kitson's attraction to Cotman was quickened by his admiration for masterly architectural draughtsmanship, his sympathy for the poetic and romantic quality of the artist's work was strong and grew with years. The expulsive power of this new affection somewhat dimmed his interest in the archaeology of art, but, while seeing everything through Cotman's eyes, he used his talent for research in investigation of the topography of Cotman's drawings and of the minutest circumstances of his life. His taste for biographical writing had been evident in the lively account of Carr of York which he contributed to the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL at an earlier period of his career. He now gave himself to the task of writing the life of Cotman, and the publication of the exhaustive and amply illustrated biography which appeared shortly before his death set the seal on his labours and enabled him to leave

the world in content, with the sense of work well and faithfully accomplished.

Of Kitson himself it is difficult for anyone who knew him well to speak without a deep sense of loss. The most affectionate and loyal of friends, he was frank and critical. The sting of his wit, however, was relieved by its good humour; he was a delightful and stimulating companion, with a power of conversation whose freshness and originality were unstinted. With his love of beauty he combined the temperament of the scholar, free from any approach to laboriousness or pedantry, and he leaves behind him the memory not only of a sound practitioner of his art but of an accomplished student of its history, and of a distinguished contributor to the literature of artistic history and criticism.

Mr. W. A. LEDGARD, Mr. Kitson's partner in the firm of Kitson, Parish, Ledgard and Ryman, writes as follows :—

Sydney Kitson, youngest son of the late Mr. James Kitson, of Elmet Hall, Leeds, founder of the business of Kitson & Co., locomotive manufacturers, of Airedale Foundry, Leeds, was born in Leeds in 1871.

He was educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge, and served his articles with Mr. E. J. May [F.R.S.], in London.

After travelling in Italy and Greece, he served as assistant to Mr. W. D. Carö for a time, before returning to Leeds in 1897. He then entered into partnership with the late Mr. Francis Bedford. This association was carried on for several years, until Mr. Bedford left Leeds to practise in London. During the time he and Mr. Bedford were together they were employed upon a very considerable amount of work. They were successful in various competitions, including the Leeds Public Dispensary and the Leeds College of Art, and were responsible for the design of several banks for the Yorkshire Banking Company, afterwards taken over by the Midland Bank, Ltd. Bedford & Kitson were also at this time concerned with a great deal of domestic work, including Dumbleton Hall, Gloucestershire; Arran, Perth; Kirkdale Manor, Yorkshire, and many other private houses.

From the time Mr. Bedford left for London until 1914 Sydney Kitson practised by himself, and of this period, as indeed of his whole professional life, it is true to say that he never lacked an abundance of work.

He developed and enlarged his practice considerably, being responsible for the erection of a large number of banks, for Lloyds Bank, Ltd., and The Midland Bank, Ltd., along with many considerable extensions to the General Infirmary at Leeds, including the King Edward VII Memorial, which included a new operating theatre block, new wards, out-patients department and nurses' home. He was also busy at this time with several Leeds Corporation contracts and domestic work, notably perhaps the restoration of Hazelwood Castle, near Tadcaster.

His services were in constant demand as lecturer on excursions of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, when, by his keen sense of humour, he was often able to present the facts in such a way as to make them more interesting to the uninitiated than otherwise they might have been.

On the outbreak of War in 1914 Sydney Kitson received a commission in the Yorkshire Hussars, and subsequently became an Assistant Provost Marshal. He attained the rank of major before being demobilized early in 1919.

In 1914 he took into partnership the late Mr. James Parish [F.R.S.], who for many years had been his chief assistant, and in

1919 the writer, who had been articled to him and served as an assistant, also became a partner.

He continued in active practice, carrying out a great deal of work, notably at Goldsborough Hall, a new district office and bank for Martins Bank, Ltd., in Leeds, and the dental school and clinic for the University of Leeds, and many hotels, until, about the year 1925, a serious and hitherto unsuspected condition of the lungs began to manifest itself, and his activities had of necessity to become more limited; however, about this time he surveyed and made drawings of a very large number of pre-Reformation churches in Yorkshire, indicating in different colours the various stages of the development of each—this collection he recently presented to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1906, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1907. He was President of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects from 1910 to 1912 and a Member of the Council of the R.I.B.A. during the same period. From 1919 to 1920 he was President of the Leeds Philosophical Society. In 1928 he was elected Hon. Secretary of the R.I.B.A., a position he held with distinction for six years.

After his retirement from active practice he settled down in Oxfordshire and became a local Justice of the Peace, served

on the Diocesan Advisory Board, and also on the local District Council. He became greatly interested in the work of John Sell Cotman, of whose pictures he built up a considerable collection.

His book on Cotman, which is now accepted as a standard work, was published in April this year, and its success must have given him considerable satisfaction. It reveals to the reader that his keen perception and active brain were unimpaired up to the end of his life.

Only last year, anticipating that he would become more of an invalid, he prepared plans for an extension to his house, to provide a first-floor sitting room adjoining his bedroom, and was much interested in carrying out the work—this may seem a small thing, but it indicates the extraordinary energy and spirit which he possessed.

He married in 1903 the eldest daughter of the late Mr. C. F. Tetley, of Leeds, who pre-deceased him in 1932, leaving two daughters.

He was a staunch friend and supporter of the Institute. He had an extraordinarily alert and critical mind, and he was, to all who knew him well, a charming friend and companion. We who were his friends can only mourn his passing, but be happy that we knew him.

ALLIED SOCIETIES

THE LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY

MAINTENANCE SCHOLARSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE

The Liverpool Architectural Society (Incorporated) offer for award the Matthewman Maintenance Scholarship (founded by the Penrynman & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.) of a maximum value of £75 per annum, tenable from 1 October 1937 at the Liverpool University School of Architecture or other School of Architecture recognised by the R.I.B.A.

The Matthewman Maintenance Scholarship is for the purpose of providing educational and maintenance allowance for a promising male person, over 17 years of age and a British subject, whose parents or guardian are resident in the area of the Liverpool Architectural Society and are in impecunious circumstances. It is tenable in the first instance for one year and renewable for four further periods of one year each. Students already taking a course

at the Liverpool School of Architecture or other School of Architecture recognised by the R.I.B.A. are also eligible to apply for the Scholarship.

Applications for the Scholarship must be made not later than 31 August 1937 on the appropriate form, which may be obtained from the Secretaries of the Liverpool Architectural Society, Messrs. Hodgson Morris & Co., 41 North John Street, Liverpool, 2.

ROYAL INCORPORATION OF ARCHITECTS IN SCOTLAND CORRECTION

We understand that Mr. J. P. Hastie [A.], who was reported in the JOURNAL of 26 June 1937 to have won the second prize in the "Quarterly" Essay Prize, was, in fact, the winner of the first prize.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

ELECTION: 18 OCTOBER 1937

In accordance with the terms of Bye-laws 10 and 11, an election of candidates for membership will take place at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 18 October 1937. The name and addresses of the overseas candidates, with the names of their proposers, are herewith published for the information of members. Notice of any objection or any other communication respecting them must be sent to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than Saturday, 9 October 1937.

AS FELLOW (1)

THOMPSON: ARNOLD JOHN, D.S.O., M.C. [A. 1925], 7 Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India; 77 Gariahat Road, Dhakima 24 Pargannas, Bengal. Proposed by Bernard Matthews, Henry A. Crook and F. B. Nightingale.

AS ASSOCIATES (8)

ANDREW: ERIC WILLIAM, B.Arch. [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects],

60 Prince Street, Mosman, Sydney, New South Wales. Proposed by L. Rome Guthrie, Francis Lorne and W. B. Simpson.

BENCH: ERNEST GEORGE [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Institute of South African Architects], 315 Scheiding Street, Pretoria, South Africa. Proposed by J. Lockwood-Hall, Robert Howden and G. E. Fitzgerald.

COWIN: MRS. ELIZABETH [Passed five years' course at the Liverpool School of Architecture, University of Liverpool. Exempted from Final Examination], Casa Bedo, Scott Street, Waverley, Johannesburg, South Africa. Proposed by Robert Howden and applying for nomination by the Council under the provisions of Bye-law 3 (d).

DE MOL: JOHANNES CLEMENT CHARLES MARIE [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects], 48 Kingsgrove Road, Campsie, New South Wales, Australia. Proposed by Professor Alfred S. Hook, Henry E. Budden and B. J. Waterhouse.

LITTLE: ROBERT LINDSAY [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects],

24 Claremont Road, Enfield, New South Wales, Australia. Proposed by Henry E. Budden, Arthur Wm. Anderson and B. J. Waterhouse.

PERKINS: NEIL FREDERICK [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects], 69 The Avenue, Nedlands, Perth, Western Australia. Proposed by Jack F. Hennessy, Horace G. Turner and E. Summerhayes.

SPOONER: ROBERT LINDSAY, B.Arch.(Sydney) [Passed a qualifying Examination approved by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects], 28 Chandos Street, Ashfield, New South Wales, Australia. Proposed by Professor Leslie Wilkinson, Professor Alfred S. Hook and W. R. Richardson.

VAZ: JULIUS LAZARUS [Final], Moghul House, De Lisle Road, Bombay, India. Proposed by H. Foster King, E. C. Henriques and P. P. Kapadia.

ELECTION OF STUDENTS R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Students R.I.B.A. at the meeting of the Council held on 21 June 1937:—

BERNEAUD: HENRY CHARLES, 3 St. Fillans Terrace, Edinburgh, 10.
BROWN: HENRY CHARLES, 243 Dentons Green Lane, St. Helens, Lancs.

CHAIKIN: ISAAC, 95 Sandringham Road, London, E.8.

CRUDEN: STEWART HUNTER, 93 Baronscourt Terrace, Edinburgh.

DESYLLAS: STELIOS MESSENEOS, 2 Clifton Avenue, Finchley, N.3.

EDEN: ALBERT MAURICE, 23 Albany Road, Stroud Green, N.4.

EDWARDS: MISS MARY DOROTHY, 27 St. Stephens Avenue, Parnell, Auckland, C.4, New Zealand.

EVANS: THOMAS RANDALL, 46 Harcourt Terrace, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.10.

GRAHAM: JOHN NETHERBY, 3 Gloucester Place, Edinburgh.

HARSE: MORRIS EDWIN, 75 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol.

HETHERINGTON: HAROLD RIDLEY, "Sunningdale," Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham.

HINGCHIFF: JOHN, 83 Hendon Lane, Finchley, N.3.

KINNEAR: CHARLES, 150 High Street, Arbroath, Angus.

KNOWLES: RONALD WILSHIRE, 96 St. George's Road, Wallasey, Cheshire.

LANG: DAVID EBENEZER, c/o Grubb, 6, Lauriston Gardens, Edinburgh.

OKELL: JOHN, 18 Robertson Avenue, Edinburgh.

PICKMERE: RALPH ARNOLD, c/o New Zealand House, Strand, London, W.C.

POWIS: GEORGE JOSCELYN, 28 Wales Road, Kiveton Park, Sheffield.

RAVEN: ARTHUR LIONEL BOULTBEE, Maytree Cottage, Shrivenham, Swindon.

REID: JOHN SKINNER, Newmill, Drumlithie.

SOLOMON: JACK WILLIAM, 39 Golders Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.11.

TETLOW: JOHN DAWE, 38 Falkner Square, Liverpool, 8.

TAW: ERNEST FREDERICK, Lake House, Hamworthy, Poole.

TROUP: MISS MARGARET MACDONALD, 83 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

TURNER: MISS DOROTHY MAUD EMBREE, Hillcliffe, Woolton, Liverpool.

TURNER: WALTER, 6 Barkham Street, Wainfleet, Lincs.

URQUHART: WILLIAM JOHN, "West Bank," West Mill Road, Colinton, Edinburgh.

WHYTE: MISS JOAN ELIZABETH FAIRWEATHER, 35 Great Cumberland Place, London, W.1.

ELECTION OF STUDENTS R.I.B.A.

The following were elected as Students R.I.B.A. at the meeting of the Council held on 5 July 1937:—

BAKER: LAURENCE WILFRED, 6 Kings Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

BERESFORD: MISS BARBARA MARY, Beverley House, Newbridge Avenue, Wolverhampton.

MILLER: KENNETH BRADLEY, 11 Ashgrove Road, Aberdeen.

READMAN: STUART CHARLES, 10 Leigh Hall Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

TAYLOR: THOMAS, 48 Phipson Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

WIGHTMAN: KENNETH LIHOU, 447 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

R.I.B.A. PROBATIONERS

During the month of June 1937 the following were enrolled as Probationers of the Royal Institute:—

ANDERTON: RAYMOND, "Staveley," Old Barnstaple Road, Bideford.

ATKINSON: JAMES CLIFFORD, "The Crest," 141 Sunderland Road, South Shields.

AUSTIN: ERNEST HARRY WESLEY, "The Gables," Brettell Lane, Stourbridge, Worcs.

BAILEY: HAROLD, Ivy Cottage, Preston Road, Euxton, Chorley.

BAXTER: KENNETH MARTIN, 27 Church Street, Atherton, near Manchester.

BINGHAM-POWELL: CHARLES HERBERT, 21 Clanricarde Gardens, London, W.2.

BLACKMORE: BERNARD CYRIL, 4 Haytor Terrace, Powderham Road, Newton Abbot.

BOWDEN: GERARD, 5 Kildare Street, Farnworth, Lancs.

BURGESS: COLIN SCOTT, 6 Rutford Road, Streatham, S.W.16.

CAMPBELL: CHARLES KENNETH, "Oaklands," Hitchin Road, Stevenage, Herts.

CAMPBELL: JAMES, 14 Glamis Road, Forfar.

CARTER: CHARLES ERIC NOEL, 16 Keble Street, Winchester, Hants.

CONNELLY: WILLIAM GOLLAN, 38 Glenprosen Terrace, Dundee.

CORNISH: CECIL ALBERT, 79 Alphington Road, Exeter, Devon.

CULL: DOUGLAS ARTHUR, 19 Alton Road, Wallisdown, Bournemouth.

DILLINGHAM: (MISS) KATHLEEN JOYCE, 25 Lansdowne Road, Luton, Beds.

DYER: DONALD LEWIS, 54 Fernleigh Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21.

EVANS: THOMAS RANDALL, 46 Harcourt Terrace, Redcliffe Square, S.W.10.

EYRE: JOHN, 3 High Santon Villas, Appleby, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

FRYER: KENNETH, Holme Grange, Holme Pierrepont, Notts.

GOATLEY: GRAHAM FREDERICK, "Channel View," Brook Barn Way, West Worthing, Sussex.

HARDMAN: CHARLES NORTON, 11 Gawber Road, Barnsley.

HARVEY: EARL MINERS, Bedford House, Two Parks, Plymouth, Devon.

HARVEY: MICHAEL McDONALD, 1 Grosvenor Place, Birkdale, Southport.

HAYWARD: ROY, "St. Ives," Glenroy Avenue, Kilvey, Swansea.

HUNT: NORMAN HADGOOD, 5 Colne Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21.

JACKSON: ALEC WALTER, "Octa," Leicester Road, Bournemouth.

KEMP: IAN PERCIVAL, 3 Cherry Tree Road, East Finchley, N.2.

KINNEAR: CHARLES, 150 High Street, Arbroath, Angus.

LOWE: THOMAS LEVI, 335 Wigan Road, Bryn, near Wigan, Lancs.

MCGUINNESS: WILLIAM, 22 Kew Gardens, Monkseaton, Northumberland.

McINTOSH : GILBERT RODERICK, 2 Alma Lane, Falkirk, Stirling.
 MISTRY : Keki DOVABJI, 16 Rustom Bagh, Bombay, 10, India.
 MOORE : COLIN ALFRED THORNLEY, 49 Lincoln Street, Norwich.
 MURCUTT : ALBERT GEORGE, 88 Balcombe Street, South Hackney, E.9.
 OWEN : JOHN LESLIE, 161 Milton Road, Sneyd Green, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.
 PARRY : MERVYN HENRY, 31 Kensington Gardens Square, W.2.
 PICKMERE : RALPH ARNOLD, c/o New Zealand House, Strand, W.C.2.
 PERCE : WILLIAM IRVINE, Ben View, Enniskillen, N. Ireland.
 RAEBURN : ROBERT, 10 Gamlen Road, Putney, S.W.15.
 ROBINSON : ROBERT WILLIAM KELLY CUPPLES, "Blythwood," 62 Queen Victoria Drive, Glasgow, W.4.
 SHEPFIELD : FRANK CHARLES, 3 Holden Way, Upminster.

SMITH : JOHN JONAH WALKER, "Blaydon," Manor Road, Watford, Herts.
 SMITH : WILLIAM, 17 Hawthorn Road, Gosforth, Northumberland.
 STANLEY : ROBERT FREDERICK, 5 Dorchester Park, Malone Road, Belfast.
 STATHAM : JOHN DESMOND, 28 Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
 TODD : KENNETH JACK, 17 Oakfield Court, King's Avenue, S.W.4.
 TURNER : CLIFFORD WILFRED, Kingsley Dairy, Bideford, N. Devon.
 WALKER : EDWARD GOWAN, 3 Holbeck Avenue, Scarborough, Yorks.
 WALLIS : JOHN RODNEY EDWARD, "Golden Lion," Luddesdown, near Gravesend, Kent.
 WILLIAMS : HARRY, 100 Taggart Avenue, Liverpool, 16.
 WILSON : GORDON WILLIAM CUSSON, 51 Durham Street, Monifieth, Scotland.
 WILSON : ROBERT ARTHUR, 12 Pettan Road, Tulse Hill, S.W.2.

Notices

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members' subscriptions, Students' and Subscribers' contributions became due on 1 January 1937.

The amounts are as follows :—

Fellows	£5 5 0
Associates	£3 3 0
Licentiatees	£3 3 0
Students	£1 1 0
Subscribers	£1 1 0

NOTE.—By a resolution of the Council dated 20 July 1931 the subscriptions of R.I.B.A. members in the transoceanic Dominions who are also members of Allied Societies in those Dominions are reduced to the following amounts as from 1 January 1932 :—

Fellows	£3 3 0
Associates	£2 2 0
Licentiatees	£2 2 0

COMPOSITION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Fellows, Associates and Licentiatees of the Royal Institute may become Life Members by compounding their respective annual subscriptions on the following basis :—

For a Fellow by a payment of £73 10s. (70 guineas).

For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £44 2s. (42 guineas), with a further payment of £29 8s. (28 guineas) on being admitted as a Fellow.

In the case of members in the transoceanic Dominions who are members of Allied Societies in those Dominions, the following basis will operate :—

For a Fellow by a payment of £52 10s. (50 guineas).

For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £31 10s. (30 guineas), with a further payment of £21 (20 guineas) on being admitted as a Fellow.

Provided always that in the case of a Fellow or Associate the above compositions are to be reduced by £1 1s. per annum

for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute after the first five years, and in the case of a Licentiate by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute, with a minimum composition of £6 6s. in the case of Fellows and £4 4s. in the case of Associates and Licentiatees.

CLASSES OF RETIRED MEMBERS

Under the provisions of Bye-law No. 15 applications may be received from those members who are eligible for transfer to the class of "Retired Fellows," "Retired Associates," or "Retired Licentiatees."

The Bye-law is as follows :—

"Any Fellow, Associate or Licentiate who has reached the age of fifty-five and has retired from practice may, subject to the approval of the Council, be transferred without election to the class of 'Retired Fellows,' 'Retired Associates' or 'Retired Licentiatees,' as the case may be, but in such case his interest in, or claim against the property of, the Royal Institute shall cease. The amount of the annual subscription payable by such 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall be £1 1s. od., or such amount as may be determined by resolution of the Council, excepting in the case of those who have paid subscriptions as full members for thirty years, and who shall be exempt from further payment. A 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate,' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall have the right to use the affix of his class with the word 'Retired' after it, shall be entitled to receive the *JOURNAL* and *Kalendar*, shall be entitled to the use of the Library, and shall have the right to attend General Meetings, but shall not be entitled to vote. A 'Retired Fellow,' 'Retired Associate' or 'Retired Licentiate' shall not engage in any avocation which in the opinion of the Council is inconsistent with that of architecture. Nothing contained in this Bye-law shall affect the rights of persons who at the date of the passing of this Bye-law are members of the classes of 'Retired Fellows' and 'Retired Members of the Society of Architects.'"

MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFIXES

The Council's attention has been called more than once to the practice, among some members, of adding a string of letters

of doubtful value to the affix indicating membership of the Royal Institute on their letter paper.

This is a matter in which the Council obviously cannot dictate to members, and must trust to their good sense. It should be obvious, however, that the affix of a chartered body of high standing is weakened in effect by the addition to it of a string of other mysterious designations, some of which probably indicate no more than the payment of an annual subscription.

TIME ALLOWED FOR THE PREPARATION OF TENDERS

At the request of the Joint Committee of London Architects and Builders and the Practice Standing Committee the Council have considered the question of the time which should be allowed for the preparation of tenders after the receipt by the contractor of the last bill of quantities.

The Council are in agreement with the Joint Committee and the Practice Standing Committee that the periods given in the following schedule are reasonable, and recommend members to adhere to these periods:—

For works up to £10,000 in value, at least two weeks should be allowed.

For works up to £200,000 in value, at least three weeks should be allowed.

For works over £200,000 in value, at least four weeks should be allowed.

NEW BUILDING MATERIALS AND PREPARATIONS

The Science Standing Committee wish to draw attention to the fact that information in the records of the Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, is freely available to any member of the architectural profession, and suggest that architects would be well advised, when considering the use of new materials and preparations of which they have had no previous experience, to apply to the Director for any information he can impart regarding their properties and application.

OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

When members are contemplating applying for appointments overseas they are recommended to communicate with the Secretary R.I.B.A., who will supply them with any available information respecting conditions of employment, cost of living, climatic conditions, etc.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER USERS

Members are reminded that the National Association of Water Users, on which the R.I.B.A. is represented, exists for the purpose of protecting the interests of consumers.

Members who experience difficulties with water companies, etc., in connection with fittings are recommended to seek the advice of the Association. The address of the Association is 46 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Under the provisions of Bye-law 21 the following has ceased to be a member of the Royal Institute:—

As Fellow
Irénee Vautrin.

Competitions

The Council and Competitions Committee wish to remind members and members of Allied Societies that it is their duty to refuse to take part in competitions unless the conditions are in conformity with the R.I.B.A. Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions and have been approved by the Institute.

While, in the case of small limited private competitions, modifications of the R.I.B.A. Regulations may be approved, it is the duty of members who are asked to take part in a limited competition to notify the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. immediately, submitting particulars of the competition. This requirement now forms part of the Code of Professional Practice in which it is ruled that a formal invitation to two or more architects to prepare designs in competition for the same project is deemed a limited competition.

ABERDEEN: LAY-OUT OF KINCORTH

The Corporation of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen invite architects to submit in competition designs for the lay-out of a part of Kincorth Estate, Aberdeen.

Assessor: Dr. Thomas Adams, F.S.I., P.P.T.P.I. [F.].

Premiums: £500 and £350 to be divided between the authors of not more than three designs next in order of merit to be decided by the Assessor.

Last day for submitting designs: 31 July 1937.

Last day for questions: 31 March 1937.

BELFAST: WATER COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES

The Belfast and District Water Commissioners invite architects resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to submit in competition designs for new Offices.

Assessor: Mr. H. Austen Hall [F.].

Premiums: £300, £200 and £100.

Last day for sending in designs: 31 July 1937.

Last day for questions: 31 May 1937.

COVENTRY: COMPETITIONS FOR TWO SCHOOLS

The City of Coventry Local Education Authority invite registered architects who on 1 May 1937 were ordinarily resident or practising in the City of Coventry to submit in two competitions designs for two new schools as follows:—

(a) For a new Public Elementary School for Juniors and Infants on the "Hill Farm" Estate, Coventry.

Assessor: Mr. W. T. Benslyn, A.R.C.A. [F.].

Premiums: £100, £50 and £30.

Last day for submitting designs: 13 September 1937.

Last day for questions: 5 July 1937.

(b) For new Public Elementary Schools for Senior Boys and Senior Girls on the "Oakhurst" site between Brownhill Green Road and Keresley Road.

Assessor: Mr. W. T. Benslyn, A.R.C.A. [F.].

Premiums: £100, £75 and £50.

17 July 1937

Last day for submitting designs : 13 September 1937.

Last day for questions : 5 July 1937.

Conditions of each competition may be obtained on application to the Director of Education, Council House, Coventry.

GLOUCESTER : NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS

The Governors of the United Schools, Gloucester, invite Registered architects domiciled in the United Kingdom to submit in competition designs for a Secondary School for Boys to be erected at Podsmead, Gloucester.

Assessor : Major H. Stratton Davis, M.C., F.S.A. [F.].

Premiums : £200, £100 and £50

Last day for sending in designs : 24 August 1937.

Last day for questions : 7 June 1937.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Dr. H. J. Larcombe, Clerk to the Governors, Belsize House, Brunswick Square, Gloucester. Deposit £1 1s.

KIRKCALDY : NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The Royal Burgh of Kirkcaldy invite architects practising in Scotland to submit, in competition, designs for new Municipal Buildings.

Assessor : Mr. Thomas S. Tait [F.].

Premiums : £200, £150 and £100.

Last day for submitting designs has been extended to 26 September 1937.

Last day for questions : 21 June 1937.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Town Clerk, Kirkcaldy. Deposit £1.

FORTHCOMING COMPETITIONS

Other competitions which it is proposed to hold, and the conditions for which are not yet available, are as follows :—

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFS. : NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Assessor : Mr. Verner O. Rees [F.].

CHESTER : EXTENSIONS TO CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Assessor : Mr. Arthur J. Hope [F.].

DUNDEE : COLLEGE OF ART

Assessor : Mr. J. R. Leathart [F.].

EDMONTON : NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS

Assessor : Mr. E. Berry Webber [A.].

GLOUCESTER : NEW SWIMMING BATH AND FIRE STATION

Assessor : Mr. C. F. W. Denning, R.W.A. [F.].

KEIGHLEY : NEW SENIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Assessor : Mr. Harold A. Dod [F.].

PRESTWICH : NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Assessor : Mr. T. C. Howitt, D.S.O. [F.].

REDCAR : DEVELOPMENT OF THE "STRAY"

Assessor : Professor Patrick Abercrombie [F.].

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, REBUILDING

Assessors : Messrs. H. V. Lanchester [F.] and T. A. Lodge [F.].

SCUNTHORPE : TOWN HALL AND POLICE STATION

Assessor : Mr. T. C. Howitt, D.S.O. [F.].

SOUTH SHIELDS : ASSEMBLY HALL AND LIBRARY

Assessor : Mr. Arthur J. Hope [F.].

WREXHAM : NEW TOWN HALL

Assessor : Mr. Herbert J. Rowse [F.].

YEOVIL : NEW TOWN HALL

Assessor : Mr. C. Cowles-Voysey [F.].

COMPETITION RESULTS

FRIERN BARNET : NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

1. Messrs. Sir John Brown and A. E. Henson [FF.] (London).
2. Mr. Frank S. Hodge (London).
3. Messrs. E. D. Lyons [A.], L. Israel [A.] and C. H. Elsom [Student] (London).

HACKNEY : NEW CENTRAL BATHS

1. Mr. H. John Phillips [A.] and Mr. Harry Gibberd [A.] (Birmingham).
2. Messrs. Bowden, Son & Partners (London).
3. Messrs. Marshall & Tweedy [FF.] and Mr. G. L. Torok (London).

Members' Column

Owing to limitation of space, notices in this column are restricted to changes of address, partnerships vacant or wanted, practices for sale or wanted, office accommodation, and appointments vacant. Members are reminded that a column in the Advertisement Section of the Journal is reserved for the advertisements of members seeking appointments in architects' offices. No charge is made for such insertions and the privilege is confined to members who are definitely unemployed.

PARTNERSHIPS WANTED

FELLOW, age 40, at present in practice in London, requires partnership in established practice in or within 100 miles radius of London.—Box 1177, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

A.R.I.B.A.—A.A. diploma—(30) requires position as assistant with a view to partnership after two or three years. Seven years' practical experience of varied work in London and provincial offices, including domestic, departmental stores, schools (public and council), licensed premises, etc. Also some private work. Position preferred with well-established architect with country practice in South or West of England.—Apply Box No. 1377, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

PARTNER, preferably about 35, wanted for old-established provincial practice in the Midlands.—Apply Box No. 1277, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

FOREIGN architect of distinction desirous of settling in England wishes to arrange partnership with a British architect.—Full particulars will be sent in reply to letters addressed to Box No. 2967, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

PRACTICE FOR SALE

A.R.I.B.A. of 30 years' standing, offers well-established practice in Urban District seaside resort, on East Coast, for immediate disposal, at three years' purchase. The only practice in the whole U.D.—Apply in confidence, Box No. 1577, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

PRACTICE WANTED

SOUND architectural practice required.—Write, giving full particulars, to Box No. 3067, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

NEW OFFICE

MR. SAMUEL STERN [J.] has opened an office at 3-5 Oxford Street, W.1. Telephone No.: Gerrard 2231.

ASSISTANCE OFFERED

ARCHITECT and surveyor (retired) is open to render part-time assistance.—L.R.I.B.A., 15 Adelaide Road, N.W.3.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

MR. WINSTON WALKER [J.] has moved to 3 Trafalgar Studios, Chelsea, S.W.3. Telephone: Flaxman 9877.

MR. WILLIAM CRAWTREE and MR. PHILIP G. FREEMAN [A.] have moved to a new office at 8 Adam Street, Portman Square. Telephone No. Welbeck 3269.

MR. L. L. T. SLOOT [F.] will practise at No. 8a Bruton Street after 25 June 1937 as his late office is being demolished.

MR. ROBERT SHARP [F.] is moving his office to 13 Lower Belgrave Street, S.W.1. Telephone No.: Sloane 1763.

SIR JOHN BROWN and MR. A. E. HENSON [FF.] have changed the address of their London office to 117 Sloane Street, S.W.1. Telephone No.: Sloane 8253.

PERSONAL

MR. AND MRS. R. FRASER REEKIE [J.L.] will be travelling in America from August 1937 to January 1938 and all communications during that period—other than personal ones—should be addressed c/o Messrs. Drury & Reekie, 7 Gower Street, W.C.1. Personal communications should be directed c/o The Architectural League of New York, 115 East 40th Street, New York, U.S.A.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

REQUIRED: suite of two light rooms, beginning September quarter, with West End or West Central address; moderate rental—Write Box 1077, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

OFFICES TO LET

ASSOCIATE'S room in well-known architect's house close to Portman Square. £50 per annum, including light and cleaning, for 12 months or longer by agreement.—Apply Box No. 1477, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

TO LET, Bloomsbury. Light office. One large room facing Square. Central heating. Large cupboards. Redecorated. Professional purposes only. £60 p.a. inclusive.—Box No. 2467, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

TRADE CATALOGUES WANTED

MR. R. DANN [F.], M.T.P.L., F.R.H.S., recently Consulting Architect and Director of Town Planning to the Government of Madras, has recently returned to England and is practising at 70 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts (phone: Welwyn Garden 3170) and 22 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, and will be pleased to receive catalogues at 70 Parkway.

Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society

ARCHITECTS' ASSISTANTS' INSURANCE FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS ACTS

Architects' Assistants are advised to apply for the prospectus of the Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, 113 High Holborn, London. W.C.1.

The Society deals with questions of insurability for the National Health and Pensions Acts (for England) under which, in general, those employed at remuneration not exceeding £250 per annum are compulsorily insurable.

In addition to the usual sickness, disablement and maternity benefits, the Society makes grants towards the cost of dental or optical treatment (including provision of spectacles).

No membership fee is payable beyond the normal Health and Pensions Insurance contribution.

The R.I.B.A. has representatives on the Committee of Management, and insured Assistants joining the Society can rely on prompt and sympathetic settlement of claims.

A.B.S. Insurance Department

THE ARCHITECTS' SPECIAL MOTOR CAR INSURANCE AT LLOYD'S

In conjunction with a firm of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers the Architects' Benevolent Society's Insurance Committee have devised a Special Motor Car Policy for Architects. This policy and the special advantages to be gained from it are available only to members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied and Associated Societies.

Special features include:—

1. Agreed values for all cars payable at any time in the event of a total loss.
2. A cumulative no-claim bonus from 20 per cent., rising to 33½ per cent. in the third year.
3. No extra premium for business use of car owned by individuals.
4. Prompt claims service in every part of Great Britain; repairs carried out by any garage provided estimate is forwarded immediately.

SPECIMEN RATES FOR FULL COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES ARE GIVEN BELOW. OTHER RATES QUOTED ON APPLICATION

	Premium.
	£ s. d.
7 h.p. Austin, valued at £100	8 5 0
9 h.p. Standard, valued at £100	9 0 0
11 h.p. Morris, valued at £150	9 15 0
20 h.p. Hillman, valued at £300	13 7 0

(The rates shown do not apply to cars garaged in London and Glasgow and Lancashire manufacturing towns; rates for these areas will be quoted on application.)

All enquiries with regard to the Special Motor Car Policy for Architects should be sent to the Secretary, A.B.S. Insurance Department, 66 Portland Place, W.1.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expressions of the Institute.

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